



## **Circular N<sup>o</sup> CH 44-5**

**To: Shipowners, Operators and Masters of all Swiss flagged Vessels and Recognized Organizations**

**Sub.: Requirements of generic and type specific ECDIS training for the certification of masters and deck officers in accordance with the provisions of STCW 2010 Manila Amendments**

- Ref. a) STCW Convention 1978, as amended Regulation I/14 Paragraph 1.5**
- b) Swiss Maritime Statute (Navigation Act, SMS) Art.62 / Ordinance implementing the Federal Law on Navigation under the Swiss Flag (Navigation Ordinance, SMO) Art.9 Paragraph 1f, Art.20**
- c) Swiss Maritime Navigation Office Circular N<sup>o</sup> CH 42**
- d) SOLAS Convention 1974, as amended Chapter V Regulation 19.2.1**

### **PURPOSE:**

The Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention 1978, as amended require specific consideration with respect to introduced standards of competence concerning Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS). With STCW 2010 new standards of competences have been introduced for masters and deck officers certified according to STCW Regulations II/1, II/2 and III/3

### **APPLICABILITY:**

This Circular applies to all shipowners and operators of Swiss Flag commercial ships and masters and deck officers employed on vessels flying the Swiss Flag and equipped with an ECDIS in accordance with the provisions of Swiss Maritime Administration Circular N<sup>o</sup> CH 42.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1. Prior the entry into force of the Manila Amendments, standards on competences concerning the use of ECDIS by masters and deck officers were not defined in the Convention. Therefore Certificates of Competency issued in accordance with the rules of the Convention prior 01 January 2012 do not necessarily give evidence of the quality of the ECDIS competences.
- 1.2. The Manila Amendments to the Convention define for the first time detailed standards of competences in the operation of ECDIS equipment. These standards are declared as a generic ECDIS training.
- 1.3. In accordance with STCW Regulation I/14 Paragraph 1.5 and the International Safety Management (ISM) Code 6.3 and 6.5 all Swiss shipowners shall ensure that masters and deck officers of vessels flying the Swiss Flag receive ship specific ECDIS training, in order to safely operate the specific equipment installed on board.
- 1.4. The new requirements of ECDIS training should be taken into specific consideration in the light of SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 19.2.20 under which the mandatory carriage of ECDIS equipment is introduced.

**2. Documentary Evidence of generic ECDIS training required for the issue of a Swiss Certificate of Competency for masters or deck officers in accordance with the Manila Amendments with validity later than 01 January 2017**

After 01 January 2012, Documentary Evidence of an adequate generic ECDIS training shall be required for the issue of a Swiss Certificate of Competency for masters or deck officers with validity later than 01 January 2017, or shall be issued with a limitation concerning ECDIS.

**3. Acceptance of Documentary Evidence of generic ECDIS training**

3.1. There are no maritime training institutions in Switzerland providing ECDIS training in terms of the Convention. The Swiss Maritime Administration shall issue Certificates of Competency for masters and deck officers according STCW Regulation II/1 and II/2 after 01 January 2012 without limitations concerning ECDIS, only if Documentary Evidence for the participation of a generic ECDIS training course is available. The Swiss Maritime Administration does not issue Certificates of Competency according to STCW Regulation II/3. The generic ECDIS training course shall be approved by the Administration of the adequate country, which shall be party to the Convention and listed on the STCW White List.

3.2. Documentary Evidence issued before 01 January 2012, attesting the participation of an ECDIS training course which is in accordance with IMO Model Course 1.27 and recognized by the Administration of the adequate country which shall be party to the Convention and listed on the STCW White List, shall satisfy the requirement.

3.3. After 01 January 2012, in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments, generic ECDIS training courses in countries abroad shall be approved by the adequate Administration which shall be party to the Convention and listed on the STCW White List.

**4. Type specific ECDIS training**

4.1. In accordance with the STCW Regulation I/14 Paragraph 1.5 and the International Safety Management (ISM) Code all Swiss shipowners must ensure that all masters and deck officers of vessels flying the Swiss Flag receive type specific ECDIS training, in order to safely operate the specific equipment installed on board.

4.2. Given the critical nature of type specific ECDIS training and familiarization after embarkment, the shipowner shall incorporate the process in the ship's Safety Management System.

4.2. Masters and Deck Officers shall be in possession of proof for the successful completion of a type specific training course for the ECDIS equipment installed on the ship, before the officer is expected to use the equipment.

4.3. The type specific ECDIS training shall be conducted on the equipment that is to be used by a manufacturer, his approved agent or someone who has completed a trainer's programme for that equipment. A manufacturer's computer based training package may be accepted by the Swiss Maritime Administration for this purpose.

Swiss Maritime Navigation Office SMNO