

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 225

ECDIS FAMILIARISATION TRAINING: Update

The matter of ECDIS training specified in our Bulletin 182 has been revised, after further consideration of IMO Circular STCW.7/Circ.18 dated 22 May 2012. The following now applies to Barbados flagged vessels:

1. Companies are required to ensure seafarers are provided with ECDIS familiarization training, (STCW Reg 1/14, para 1.5 and ISM Code sections 6.3 & 6.5). The ship's safety management plan/system should include familiarization of the ECDIS equipment installed, which includes the backup arrangements, sensors and associated peripherals. A familiarization record should be kept and held onboard.
2. Ship operators are urged to use resources of ECDIS manufacturers, perhaps provided via cd, dvd or other electronic media, for type specific materials. These aids may comprise part of the ECDIS familiarization training.
3. There may be no requirement for masters and officers serving on vessels fitted with ECDIS to meet the 2010 Manila Amendments before 1 January 2017, however we would urge that these seafarers be provided, prior to serving on such ships, with generic training in accordance with IMO model course 1.27.
4. A certificate of competency issued in accordance with 2010 Manila Amendments is accepted by Barbados as prima facie evidence of generic ECDIS training; however, the familiarization training of the ECDIS equipment installed on board should be recorded, and the record maintained on board ready for inspection as and when the occasion arises.

18 September 2014