



PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS

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Directive No. STCW/20

AUTHORIZING SHIPS TO PARTICIPATE IN TRIALS

Issued under the enabling power of the Ministerial Resolution 6/2001
and including STCW 2010 Manila Amendments

1. Introduction:

(1) With reference to;

- IMO Resolutions MSC.373(93) and MSC.374(93);
- Regulation I/13 paragraphs 4 and 5 "Conduct of trials" of the STCW Convention;
- Regulation I/16 "Verification of compliance" of the STCW Convention; and
- Section A-I/16 "Verification of compliance" of the STCW Code

(2) This directive provides guidance relating to granting authorizations to ships entitled to fly the Bahrain flag to participate in trials, and the reporting of the details of such trials and the details of results of the trials to the IMO Secretary General.

2. Conduct of Trials

(1) Shipping companies may request the permission of the Ports and Maritime Affairs (PMA) if they wish to conduct any trials that fall under the following definition:

"Trials" means an experiment or series of experiments, conducted over a limited period, which may involve the use of automated or integrated systems



in order to evaluate alternative methods of performing specific duties or satisfying particular arrangements prescribed by the STCW Convention.

- (2) The PMA may authorize shipping companies to conduct trials on their ships but the PMA shall be satisfied that such trials are conducted in a manner that provides at least the same degree of safety and pollution prevention as provided by the regulations made under the Bahraini relevant laws and the STCW Convention. Any such trials shall be conducted in accordance with guidelines adopted by IMO as may be made from time to time.
- (3) Details of such trials shall be reported to the PMA who in turn will extend it to the IMO Secretary General as early as practicable but not less than six months before the date on which the trials are scheduled to commence.
- (4) The results of trials authorized under paragraph 2.2, and any recommendations the PMA may have regarding those results, will be reported to IMO Secretary General.
- (5) If the PMA receives objections from other Administrations relating to such trial, shipping companies shall not engage in a trial while navigating in the waters of that coastal State which has communicated its objection.
- (6) If, on the basis of a trial, that a particular system will provide at least the same degree of safety and pollution prevention as provided by the STCW Convention and Bahrain relevant laws, the PMA may authorize Bahraini ships to continue to operate with such a system indefinitely, subject to the following requirements:
 - (a) The PMA shall, after results of the trial have been submitted in accordance with paragraph 2.4, provide details of any such authorization, including identification of the specific ships that may be



subject to the authorization, to IMO which will circulate this information to all Parties;

- (b) Any operations authorized under this paragraph shall be conducted in accordance with guidelines as may be developed by IMO, to the same extent as they apply during a trial;
- (c) Such operations shall respect any objections received from other Administrations in accordance with paragraph 2.5, to the extent such objections have not been withdrawn; and
- (d) An operation authorized under this notice shall only be permitted pending a determination by IMO as to whether an amendment to the Convention would be appropriate, and, if so, whether the operation should be suspended or permitted to continue before the amendment enters into force.

3. Revision history:

Revision No. 1 of the present Directive is the first revision

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Undersecretary for Ports and Maritime Affairs
25th December 2016