

To Whom it May Concern

Statement on amendments to the STCW Code

Upon request, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) issues the following statement regarding amendments to Part A of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code, Chapter VI, Section A-VI/1, Table A-VI/1-4 concerning new training requirements for the prevention of and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying, and sexual assault.

Training Requirements

Resolution MSC.560(108) does not include any transitional provision requiring seafarers who have previously obtained a Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Training to supplement their training. Furthermore, the resolution does not contain any guidance that Parties should require re-training for holders of Basic Training Certificates of Proficiency obtained before 2026.

The Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities training (A-VI/1-4) remains valid until further notice. It does not need to be refreshed every five years, unlike the Basic Training (A-VI/1) modules for Personal Survival Techniques (A-VI/1-1), and Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (A-VI/1-2).

Under the STCW Code, the amendment therefore applies only to individuals applying for a Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Training for the first time after 1 January 2026.

Certification and control

Article X, paragraph 1 of the Convention, is explicit in its requirement to accept certificates issued by a Party to the Convention, except for two specified reasons.

Moreover, according to the *Guidance for Parties, Administrations, port State control authorities, recognized organizations and other relevant parties on the requirements of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended (STCW.7/Circ.24/Rev.1)*, a Certificate of Proficiency issued by the Administration is proof that the STCW requirements are met. Separate training

certificates for the prevention of and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying, and sexual assault shall therefore not be required.

The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) trusts that this statement clarifies the situation and expects that holders of a Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Training will not face any difficulties regarding this matter.



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