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17 December 2025

**To: Shipowners, Ship Managers, Seafarers Training Institutes, Masters,
Officers and Crew**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Amendment to Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR) Course

The Maritime Safety Committee (“MSC”) of the International Maritime Organization (“IMO”) at its 108th session adopted the resolution MSC.560(108) to amend the Part A of the Seafarers’ Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (the “STCW Code”). The amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2026.

2. The amended STCW Code Section A-VI/1 applies only to seafarers undertaking Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (“PSSR”) training on or after 1 January 2026. While pending further clarification from IMO, seafarers completed PSSR training issued before 1 January 2026 are not required to complete additional training for compliance with the amendment before the current Certificate of Proficiency (“COP”) expires, subject to the policy adopted by the COP issuing Administration.

3. All companies are encouraged to provide their seafarers with training and guidance according to MSC.560(108), to promote good working practices and ensure a safe and supportive working environment.

4. Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact us by email, by fax or by telephone.

Yours Faithfully,

(No Signature on website copy)

(D XIANG)

Mercantile Marine Office

For Director of Marine

Encl.

Amendments to Part A of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW)
Code

<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/filemanager/en/share/msnote/pdf/msin2539.pdf>

C.C.:

Hong Kong Shipowners Association

Hong Kong Seamen's Union

Merchant Navy Officers' Guild

Amalgamated Union of Seafarers, H.K.

Maritime Service Training Institute