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**NT/EXAM. CIRCULAR NO. 02 of 2018**

Authorized by	Examination, Assessment & Certification (EAC) Branch	IS/ISO Clause No. 7.5.1
Chief Examiner of Master and Mates	Subject: <u>Transitional provisions for Certification of Masters and deck officers on ships operating in polar waters – reg.</u>	NT Exam Circular No. 02 of 2018
	File No: 7-NT(7)/2013	Date : 01.03.2018

1. The International Code for ships operating in Polar waters (The Polar Code) entered into force through the new Chapter XIV of SOLAS [i.e. *Safety Measures for ships operating in Polar Waters*].

2. The ‘*Manning and Training*’ Chapter of Polar Code [Chapter 12, Part I-A] at Para 12.2 requires Masters, Chief Mates and Officers in charge of a navigational watch to have completed training to attain the required abilities that are appropriate to the capacities to be filled and duties and responsibilities to be taken, considering the amended provisions of the STCW Convention and the STCW Code.

3. The amendment to the STCW Convention was carried out vide MSC Resolution 416 (97) dated 25.11.2016 and the STCW Code was amended vide MSC Resolution 417 (97) dated 25.11.2016. The amendments to the STCW Convention and Code introduced new training and certifications requirements for Masters, Chief Mates and Officers in charge of a navigational watch on ships operating in Polar waters. The amendments enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2018. The new certificates introduced are as follows:

3.1 ‘*Certificate of Proficiency [CoP] in Basic training for ships operating in polar waters*’

3.2 ‘*Certificate of Proficiency [CoP] in Advanced training for ships operating in polar waters*’.

4. Masters, Chief Mates and Officers in charge of a navigational watch are required to be in possession of the said CoPs only if the vessel is operating in polar waters as defined in Chapter XIV of SOLAS at regulations 1.2 to 1.4. For ease of reference, the geographical area of polar waters is indicated on map at Appendix-1(Figure 1& Figure 2).

5. The said amendment to STCW Convention also provides transitional provisions at para 6 & 7 of Regulation V/4 of Chapter V of the Convention. As per the transitional provision, until 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2020, seafarers who commenced approved sea going service in polar waters, or in equivalent waters, between 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2013, & 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2018 with at least 3 months in total of sea service as a member of the deck watch, at operational, or at management level, may apply for a Certificate of Proficiency [CoP] in Basic training for ships operating in polar waters or Certificate of Proficiency [CoP] in Advanced training for ships operating in polar waters (as appropriate) without undergoing the course.

6. The term “Equivalent approved sea going service” has not been defined in the Convention. However, the Polar Code at Part I-A, Section 12.3.2.5 has indicated an ice concentration figure of 2/10. In view of the same, *Equivalent approved sea going service* can be considered as ice conditions with ice concentration of 2/10<sup>th</sup> or greater as per the ice nomenclature of the World Meteorological Organization. The ice concentration and nomenclature are as follows:

10/10	consolidated pack ice compact
9-10/10	very close pack ice
7-9/10	close pack ice
4-6/10	open pack ice
1-3/10	very open pack ice
< 1/10	open water

7. The details of the new basic and advance course for ships operating in Polar waters are under preparation. However, in the meantime, seafarers desiring to use the transitional provision provided in the STCW Convention may apply for basic/advance certificate (as appropriate) for ships operating in polar waters by submitting duly completed application and supporting documents to the Mercantile Marine Department by using the format given in Annexure.

- 7.1 Annex 1: Format of making Application for Issue of Certificate of Proficiency (basic/advanced) to be made by the applicant.
- 7.2 Annex 2: Format for issuing record of sea service on ships when operating in polar waters or other equivalent seagoing service [to be taken from each ship attested by the Master] applicable for sea service performed after 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2018.
- 7.3 Annex 3: Format for company issuance of record of sea service on ships operating in Polar waters, or other equivalent waters [to be issued by the company].
- 7.4 Annex 4: Format for Certificate of Proficiency [CoP] in Basic Training for ships operating in Polar Waters [Issued by MMDs].
- 7.5 Annex 5: Format for Certificate of Proficiency [CoP] in Advanced Training for ships operating in Polar Waters [Issued by MMDs].

8. This issues with the approval of the Chief Examiner of Master and Mates.

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