

ECDIS

Competence of Masters and Deck Officers (Certificate of Competency / Documentary Evidence)

Summary

Notice to all shipowners, seamen, port state control officers and those concerned with maritime training, to clarify which certificate of competency and documentary evidence is necessary for Masters and Deck Officers, sailing on German flagged vessels of all sizes, which have Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS).

Part 1 provides information about the actual legal situation until the 31.12.2011

Part 2 takes the Manila Amendments 2010 of the STCW Convention into account, which come into force on the 01.01.2012 with a transitional period until the 31.12.2016.

1. The Present Situation:

1.1 Generic ECDIS Training: Certificate of Competency (CoC)

Any CoC issued in accordance with regulation II/1 (officer in charge of a navigational watch), regulation II/2 (chief mate / master) or regulation II/3 (officer in charge of a navigational watch / master on ships up to 500 GT, in near coastal voyages) of the annex to the STCW Convention categorically certify that the holder of these certificates is competent in the operation of ECDIS equipment.

All the present CoC's which have already been issued in accordance with the regulations II/1, II/2 and II/3¹ of the Annex to the STCW Convention do not necessarily give evidence about the quality of the ECDIS competencies, because in the actual version of the STCW Convention no mandatory ECDIS competencies have been defined.

Documentation about any kind of ECDIS training does not necessarily mean that this training has been carried out according to the required STCW standards. It could in fact only be the proof of a working ISM system.

1.2 Type Specific ECDIS Training

In accordance with the ISM Code each ship operator must make sure that every master and deck officer has received ship specific ECDIS training, in order to safely operate the ECDIS equipment installed on board.

Accordingly, the responsibility for the implementation of specific ECDIS training is by the company.

Every ECDIS familiarisation training in the efficient use of the ship specific ECDIS equipment should be documented in an appropriate manner. This familiarisation training supplements the generic training.

¹ Germany has not yet issued any CoC's in accordance with regulation II/3 of the Annex of the STCW Convention.

2. After the 01.01.2012 the Manila Amendments 2010 to the STCW Convention come into force

2.1. Fundamentally

The Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention which were signed in 2010 contain for the first time amongst others detailed standards on the evidence of competency in the operation of ECDIS equipment (generic ECDIS training).

Unless proof of these competencies can be provided, as of from 01.01.2012 all CoC's of the master and deck department will be issued with a limitation regarding ECDIS, if these certificates have a period of validity longer than the 01.01.2017.

The endorsement of certificates with limitations regarding ECDIS can be excused, if the holder decides only to apply for a revalidation with a period of validity until the 31.12.2016.

2.2. Generic ECDIS Training: Certificate of Competency (CoC)

Documentation of adequate ECDIS competencies in accordance with the regulations II/1, II/2 and II/3 of the Annex to the STCW Convention are provided through the issuance of appropriate CoC's to deck officers and masters and not through any DocE.

Provided that evidence of adequate competencies have been documented, CoC's can be issued without any limitations regarding to ECDIS competencies. Plausible adequate competencies could be documented through:

- Evidence of training according to No. 2.3. (generic ECDIS training: transitional arrangements),
- Presentation of DocE of courses which have been approved by the BSH according to No. 2.4 (generic ECDIS training – approved ECDIS courses),
- Presentation of comparable training and DocE, which have been approved by the maritime administration of an European Economic Area (EEA) member state.

2.3. Generic ECDIS Training: Transitional Arrangements

2.3.1 Anyone who holds a German CoC as an officer in charge of a navigational watch according to regulation II/1 of the STCW Convention issued for the first time after the 01.01.2006 meets the requirement of generic ECDIS training including the terms agreed in the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention. Different arrangements can be found at the [BSH website](#) (Zeugnisse für Seeleute – Kurszulassung).

2.3.2 Everybody who can provide proof of participation prior to the 31.12.2011 in a recognised ECDIS course in accordance with IMO Model Course 1.27, meets the requirements of the generic ECDIS training.

All BSH approved courses can be found at the [BSH website](#) (Zeugnisse für Seeleute – Kurszulassung).

2.3.3 Participation in generic ECDIS training based on the IMO Model ECDIS Course 1.27 approved by the Maritime Administration of an EEA Member State meets the requirements.

2.3.4 DocE of training as specified under points 2.3.1 – 2.3.3, together with reference to this notice, should satisfy Port State Control Officers (PSCO) that the holder meets the required generic ECDIS training requirements until the 31.12.2016.

2.4. Generic ECDIS Training: Approved ECDIS Courses

After the 01.01.2012 all generic ECDIS training must be approved by the Administration of each contracting Party to the STCW Convention, provided that they issue certificates in accordance with regulations II/1, II/2 and II/3 of the Annex to the STCW Convention. The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) will be responsible for the approval of ECDIS courses on behalf of Germany as a contracting Party.

Participation in an approved ECDIS course is a principle requirement for all masters and deck officers, who cannot provide evidence of having participated in such a course as listed under points 2.3.1 – 2.3.3, and who intend to apply for a certificate revalidation after 01.01.2012 which is valid beyond the 01.01.2017 without any limitations in regard to ECDIS competencies.

These courses can be approved by the BSH or any other contracting Party to the STCW Convention in respect to the Manila Amendments, as soon as these Amendments come into force on the 01.01.2012.

All BSH approved courses will be published at the [BSH website](#) (Zeugnisse für Seeleute – Kurszulassung).

2.5. Type Specific ECDIS Training

Subparagraph 1.2 continues to remain valid even after 01.01.2012.

3. Further Information

Further information, i.e. about the approval of courses can be obtained from:

Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie
Sachgebiet S12
Postfach 30 12 20
20305 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 (0) 40 31 90 71 25
Fax: +49 (0) 40 31 90 50 00
E-Mail: zeugnisse@bsh.de
www.bsh.de (Manila-Änderungen 2010 – ECDIS)