



MARITIME AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA

Circular No. 05/2024

23rd April 2024

Circular on Ensuring Continuous Watches

To: All Shipping Companies, Ship Masters, Chief Engineers, and Watchkeeping Personnel

Subject: Ensuring Continuous Watches in Accordance with STCW Regulation VIII/2

Date: April 23, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

In accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), Regulation VIII/2, we are issuing this circular to emphasize the importance of ensuring continuous watches onboard vessels flying the Jamaican flag.

Continuous and effective watchkeeping is essential for the safety of maritime operations, the protection of life at sea, and the prevention of marine pollution. It is incumbent upon all shipping companies, ship masters, chief engineers, and watchkeeping personnel to adhere strictly to the principles outlined in STCW Regulation VIII/2.

We hereby remind all concerned parties of the following key points regarding the principle of ensuring continuous watches:

- 1. Watchkeeping Arrangements:** Shipping companies must establish watchkeeping arrangements that comply with the requirements specified in STCW Regulation VIII/2, ensuring that vessels are adequately manned to maintain continuous watchkeeping throughout all operational phases.
- 2. Allocation of Duties:** Ship masters and chief engineers are responsible for assigning watchkeeping duties to qualified personnel in accordance with the vessel's operational requirements, crewing levels, and the provisions of the STCW Convention and relevant national regulations.
- 3. Minimum Safe Manning:** Ensure that vessels are manned with a sufficient number of qualified watchkeeping personnel to meet the minimum safe manning requirements prescribed by the flag state, taking into account factors such as vessel type, size, trading area, and operational complexity.
- 4. Watch Rotation:** Implement watchkeeping schedules and rotation patterns that allow for adequate rest periods and minimize fatigue among watchkeeping personnel, in accordance with STCW requirements regarding maximum hours of work and minimum rest periods.
- 5. Training and Competence:** Ensure that all watchkeeping personnel possess the necessary training, qualifications, and competence to perform their duties effectively and safely. Provide ongoing training and professional development opportunities to enhance watchkeeping skills and knowledge.

6. **Supervision and Oversight:** Ship masters, chief engineers, and designated officers must exercise vigilant supervision and oversight of watchkeeping activities to ensure compliance with established procedures, regulations, and safety standards.
7. **Emergency Preparedness:** Maintain a state of readiness at all times to respond promptly and effectively to emergencies or unforeseen circumstances that may arise during watchkeeping duties. Conduct regular drills and exercises to test emergency response procedures and crew preparedness.

Compliance with the principles outlined in this circular is essential to safeguarding the lives of seafarers, protecting the marine environment, and upholding the integrity of maritime operations. We urge all concerned parties to prioritize the effective implementation of continuous watchkeeping practices in accordance with STCW Regulation VIII/2.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.



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关于确保连续值班的通函

致：所有航运公司、船长、轮机长和值班人员

主题：确保连续值班符合 STCW 条例 VIII/2

日期：2024 年 4 月 23 日

各位同事，

根据《国际培训、认证和标准公约》海员值班（STCW），第 VIII/2 条，我们发布本通函是为了强调确保悬挂牙买加国旗的船舶上持续值班的重要性。

持续有效的值班对海上作业安全、保护海上生命和防止海洋污染至关重要。所有现有的航运公司、船长、轮机长和值班人员要严格遵守 STCW 条例 VIII/2 中概述的原则。

我们在此提醒有关各方注意以下要点，以确保值的连续运行：

1. 值班安排：航运公司必须建立值班，符合 STCW 第 VIII/2 条规定要求的安排，确保船舶有足够的人员，以便在整个操作过程中保持持续的值班。
2. 职责分配：船长和轮机长负责根据船舶的操作要求、船员级别以及《STCW 公约》和国家有关规定，委派相关具备资质人员值班。
3. 最低安全人员配备：考虑到船舶类型、大小、航行区域和操作复杂程度等因素，确保船上配备足够数量的合格值班人员，以符合船旗国规定的最低安全配员要求。
4. 值班轮换：按照《STCW》有关最长工作时数和最短休息时间的规定，实施值班时间表和轮班模式，使值班人员有足够的休息时间，并尽量减少疲劳。
5. 培训和能力：确保所有值班人员都经过必要的培训、资格和能力，以有效和安全地履行其职责。提供持续的培训和专业发展机会，以提高值班技能和知识。
6. 监督和疏忽：船长、轮机长和指定高级船员必须对值班活动进行有效的监督和避免疏忽，以确保符合既定的程序、法规和安全标准。
7. 应急准备：随时保持准备状态，以迅速有效地应对值班期间可能出现的紧急情况或不可预见的情况。进行定期的演习和训练，以检验应急响应程序和船员的准备情况。

遵守本通知概述的原则，对于保障海员生命安全、保护海洋环境和维护海上作业的完整性至关重要。我们敦促有关各方优先按照 STCW 规例 VIII/2 有效实施持续值班措施。。

感谢您的关注与合作。