



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM 6/5/2/1
SM 14/2/7/1
SM 9/2/2

Date: 6 June 2018

Marine Notice No. 19 of 2018

Review of the SAMSA Code

TO ALL SEAFARERS, EMPLOYERS, EXAMINERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

Summary

This Marine Notice is intended to advise the Maritime Industry of the Process to review the South African Maritime Qualifications Code (SAMSA Code) by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) as agreed to by the Syllabus Committee.

Background and Introduction

1. The Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013, as amended, (the Regulations) requires that SAMSA publishes the SAMSA Code and keep it updated as required.
2. Regulation 9 of the Regulations requires that SAMSA establishes the Syllabus Committee with a function to “...interpret the syllabuses set out in the Code and to keep these Regulations and the Code under review.”
3. SAMSA, together with the Syllabus Committee, at the meeting that took place on 22 - 23 May 2018, agreed on the Procedure to review the SAMSA Code.
4. The Review commenced with the Syllabus Committee approving, through consensus, 11 different Standards of Training and Assessments (STA's)

The SAMSA Code

5. The SAMSA Code is a set of Standards for Training and Assessment (STA) of Seafarers, based on the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW Convention) and the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code), as applicable.
6. The STA's provides for the implementation of the specific “...minimum requirements for the issue of the certificates of Competency and/or Proficiency for...” in the STCW Code, provided for in Chapters II – VII, as well as the provisions of Chapter I if the STCW Convention and the STCW Code.
7. Each standard, before being implemented, shall be presented to the Syllabus Committee meeting where it shall be approved through consensus.

Review Procedure

8. The procedure for the Review, 'POP-502 - Approval of the SAMSA Code by the Syllabus Committee', requires that SAMSA make a consultation with all stakeholder directly affected by the review, particularly the training institutions who are accredited to offer the course, programme, etc. through workshops.
9. The workshops serve to provide a platform where training providers currently accredited may give insights into their experience as well and giving oral contributions to the reviewed STA's, as well as inviting written correspondence regarding the same.
10. As the SAMSA Code is large, the Review is being performed in phases, broadly the phases are as follows;
 - a) Phase 1 (2017/18) consists of Occupational Health, Safety & Security Courses
 - b) Phase 2 (2018/19) consists of Occupational Health, Safety & Security Courses (Advanced)
 - c) Phase 3 (2019/20) consists of Competency Courses for Ratings & Officers
 - d) Phase 4 (2020/21) consists of Academic programmes for Officers
11. During the Syllabus Committee meeting that took place on 22 - 23 May 2018, the committee considered the following STA's and decided as follows;

	Standard	Decision
1.	STA-05-100 - Tanker Fire Fighting	Declined
2.	STA-06-101 - Personal survival techniques	Approved
3.	STA-06-102 - Fire prevention and fire fighting	Approved
4.	STA-06-103 - Elementary first aid	Approved
5.	STA-06-104 - Personal safety and social responsibilities	Approved
6.	STA-06-301 - Advanced fire fighting	Approved
7.	STA-06-301a - Advanced fire fighting - Refresher	Approved
8.	STA-06-401 - Medical first aid	Approved
9.	STA-06-402 - Medical care	Approved
10.	STA-06-402a - Medical care - Refresher	Approved
11.	STA-06-601 - Security awareness	Approved
12.	STA-06-602 - Designated security duties	Approved

13. The standards listed above will come into effect on 01 July 2018.

The Effect on the SAMSA Code Matrix

14. The SAMSA Code Matrix shall be reviewed as part of the Review process and changes will be published on the SAMSA Website.
15. Major changes to the SAMSA Code Matrix will be published in a Marine Notice as they occur.

Transitional Arrangements

16. There's a general transitional period of 3 months, from 01 July 2018, whereupon institutions need to provide documentary proof of being compliant with the new STA.
17. Where compliance by an institution relies on other authorities, e.g. municipalities, fire department, etc. to give permission, institutions shall provide documentary evidence of having started the process to obtain such permission
18. Where the new STA requires that the course content be amended, the amendments must be submitted to the nearest SAMSA office at the earliest time possible. Such submissions shall clearly identify the areas of the Course that have been added due to the reviewed STA.
19. The information required shall be submitted to SAMSA as provided in each STA.

Normative

20. There shall be no cost to the Institution for the review of information submitted to SAMSA as required by the transitional arrangements of the new STA's, provided;
 - a) The information submitted under items 16 & 17 above meets all the requirements through documentary evidence and/or a single audit by a SAMSA Examiner
 - b) The information submitted under item 18 above meets all the requirements on a single review by an examiner.
 - c) **Where the examiner deems the information insufficient, after a single review and a single interaction, further review shall be charged as set out in the Charges Determination**
21. Enquiries regarding the contents of this e-mail may be directed to the Office of the Chief Examiner, via e-mail to exams@samsa.org.za

6 June 2018

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Annex – SAMSA Code Structure

SAMSA Code

1. Deck Officers	STCW >500 GT STCW < 500 GT Fishing Port Operations Small Vessels
2. Engineering Officers	STCW ≥750 kW Fishing Marine Motorman Port Operations
3. Ratings	Deck Engine Cook
4. Radio Operators	GMDSS SRC LRC
5. Special Ships	Tankers Passengers Polar Vessels
6. Occupational Health, Safety and Security	Occ Health - Medical Occ Safety - PISC, FiFi, Basic Training, FRC Occ Security - SSO, DSD, SSA
7. Other training	Marine Traffic Dangerous Goods Facilitation Training
8. Seafarers Medical Standards	Medical Standards Approval of Medical Practitioners