

Developing the Polar Code for training/IMO Training Program

Polar Maritime seminar 2025



**Milton Baron – Technical Officer
Maritime Safety Division**

23 January 2025

SEAFARERS TRAINING FOR POLAR WATERS OPERATIONS

Well-trained seafarers are essential for safe navigation in polar waters and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has been playing its part in the training of seafarers on ships operating in polar waters.

chapter 12 of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), on manning and training, provides that companies must ensure masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch on board ships operating in polar waters have completed appropriate training, taking into account the provisions of the **STCW Convention and its related STCW Code**.

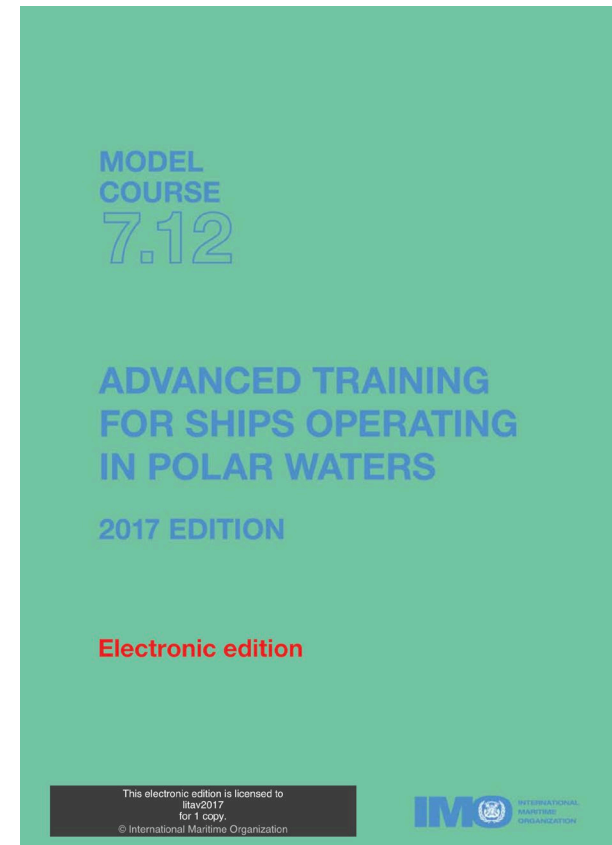
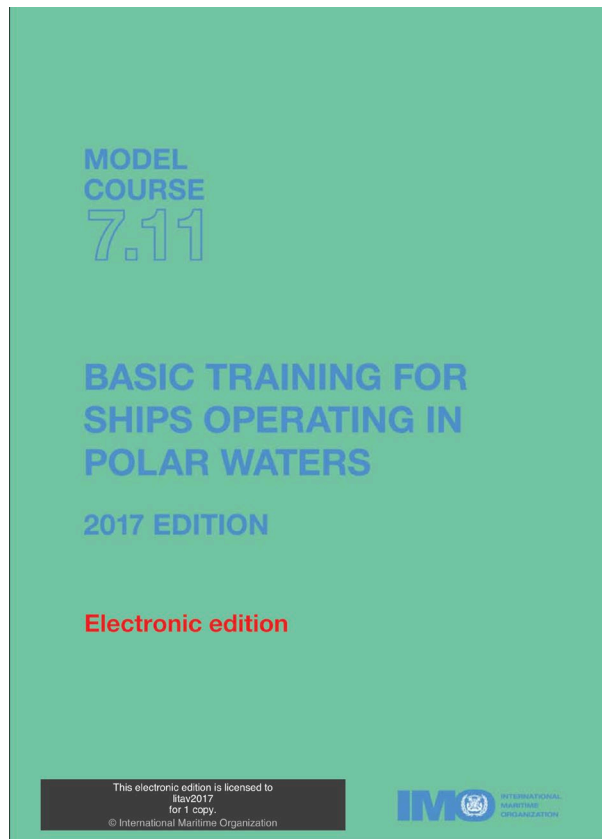
chapter V of the STCW Convention The mandatory minimum requirements for the training and qualifications of masters and deck officers on ships operating in polar waters, from 1 July 2018



IMO in the Polar environment

IMO MODEL COURSES FOR SHIPS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS

In 2017, IMO also developed two new model courses on **Basic and Advanced training for ships operating in polar waters** to support maritime training bodies in organizing and developing competence-based training programs and updating existing programs.



Basic and Advanced training for ships operating in polar waters

- Basic Course Design Philosophy
- Core competencies
 - Contribute to Safe Operation of Vessels in Polar Waters
 - Apply Safe Working Practices & Respond to Emergencies
 - Comply with Pollution Prevention Requirements & Prevent Environmental Hazards
 - Monitor and Ensure compliance with Legislative Requirements



- Advance Course Design Philosophy
- Core competencies
 - Plan and conduct a voyage in Polar Waters
 - Manage the safe operation of vessels operating in Polar Waters
 - Maintain safety of ship's crew and passengers and the operational condition of lifesaving, firefighting and other safety systems



Port Of Ushuaia



IMO/CANADA TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS PROJECT

1. IMO and Transport Canada, through a Memorandum of Understanding, delivered five **(5) regional capacity-building workshops** between 2019 and 2022 to provide training for trainers to deliver training programs for seafarers operating in Polar waters and on the implementation of the Polar Code.
2. The aim of the workshops was to assist Governments and their maritime training institutes in enhancing the skills and competence of maritime instructors to develop competence based training programs, update existing programs and improve the use of the IMO model courses **7.11 & 7.12 (Basic and Advanced training for ships operating in Polar waters)**.

Under the project, five (5) regional capacity-building workshops were delivered:

- **Canada** (September 2019)
- **Chile** (November 2019)
- **Republic of Korea** (November 2021) - virtual/eLearning
- **Russian Federation** (December 2021) - virtual/eLearning
- **Turkiye** (September 2022) - Hybrid virtual/eLearning and in-person

IMO/CANADA TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS PROJECT

Lessons Learned in Delivery of Polar Code Training Programs Workshop

1. Between October 31 – November 3, 2023, a final workshop was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina to review the lessons learned from the first five (5) years of implementing mandatory training for seafarers operating in Polar Waters.
2. Participants included:
 1. training Instructors with considerable experience delivering Polar Code Training programs;
 2. seafarers with substantial experience in operating vessels in Polar Waters since the adoption of the Polar Code;
 3. maritime administration representatives with expert knowledge in the application of Polar Code provisions within their areas of responsibility;
 4. Many of the participants had also participated in one of the five (5) Regional Train-the-Trainer Workshops
3. The Buenos Aires workshop produced fourteen (14) recommendations for further consideration by the IMO. A summary of the findings and recommendations is provided in document HTW 10/6/8

IMO/CANADA TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS PROJECT

Canada - Regional train-the-trainer workshop for seafarers on ships operating in polar waters, 9 to 13 September 2019, St. John's, Newfoundland

- 11 participants from 7 countries: Canada, Bahamas, Chile, Denmark, Iceland, India, Jamaica with representatives from Governments and maritime academies.
- The **training focused** on how to effectively implement key IMO instruments (Polar Code and STCW Convention) containing provisions for ships operating in polar waters, with particular focus on the **Arctic**.
- It included technical presentations, case studies and table-top exercises, simulations on navigation simulator, regional regulations and the required training and certification for seafarers on ships operating in polar waters.



Training group of participants in Canada

The activities carried out for the Canadian Polar waters project have been disseminated in our website under the following links:

Canada workshop (9 to 13 Sep 2019)

<https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/polar-default.aspx>

IMO/CANADA TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS PROJECT

Chile - Regional train-the-trainer workshop for seafarers on ships operating in polar waters, 18 to 22 November 2019, Valparaiso

- 19 participants from 8 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru with representatives from Governments and maritime academies.
- The training **focused** on how to effectively implement key IMO instruments (Polar Code and STCW Convention) containing provisions for ships operating in polar waters, with particular focus on the **Antarctic waters**



Training group of participants in Chile

- The activities carried out for the Canadian Polar waters project have been disseminated in our website under the following links:
- Chile workshop (18 to 22 Nov 2019)
- <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/Pages/WhatsNew-1424.aspx>



DIGITAL INNOVATION – EDUCATION AND TRAINING



IMO has developed a number of e-Learning courses with the purpose of increasing the capacity of Member States to effectively implement IMO instruments. Some courses are also available to anyone interested in maritime issues wishing to enhance their maritime knowledge.

eLearning courses

- An Introduction to Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation
- IMO Member State Audit Scheme course
- IMO-RoK GHG SMART Training Programme
- **Polar Code Instructor Training**

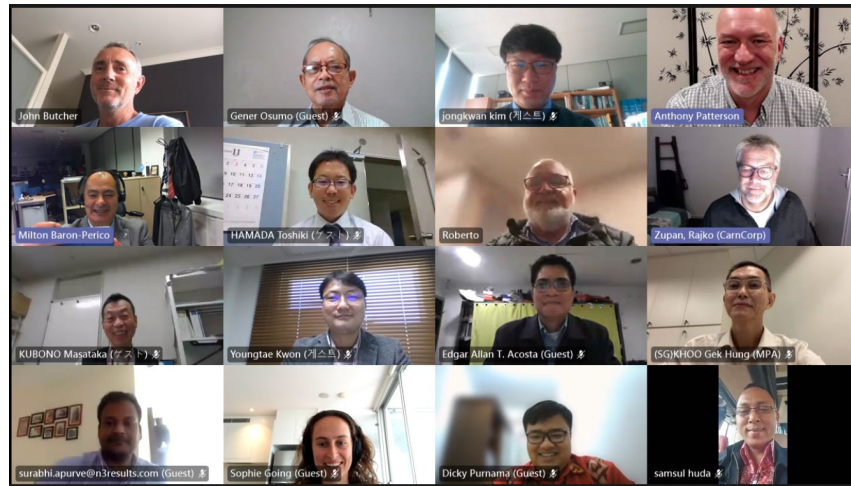
IMO/CANADA TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS PROJECT

Korea - eLearning/virtual regional train-the-trainer workshop for seafarers on ships operating in polar waters, 22 to 26 November 2021

- 17 participants from 6 countries: Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, and Philippines with representatives from Governments and maritime academies.

Russia - eLearning/virtual regional train-the-trainer workshop for seafarers on ships operating in polar waters, 06 to 10 December 2021

- 11 participants from 5 countries: France, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Sweden with representatives from Governments and maritime academies.



Screen capture from Polar Code Train-the-Trainer eWorkshop held November 22-26, 2021 and hosted by the Republic of Korea. The workshop was delivered using video conferencing and self-study through the Moodle™ platform.

IMO/CANADA TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS PROJECT

Turkiye - hybrid eLearning and in-person regional train-the-trainer workshop for seafarers on ships operating in Polar Waters, 28 to 30 September eLearning and in-person from 3 to 5 October 2022, Izmir

- 29 participants from 12 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Latvia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Romania, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye and Vietnam with representatives from Governments and maritime academies.



Argentina - Lessons Learned workshop for Polar Code training programs , 31 October to 3 November 2023, Buenos Aires

- 26 participants from 14 countries: Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Malaysia, Panama, Philippines, Slovenia, South Africa, and Türkiye with representatives from Governments, maritime academies and industry.

The Buenos Aires workshop produced fourteen (14) recommendations for further consideration by the IMO. A summary of the findings and recommendations is provided in document HTW 10/6/8



LESSONS LEARNED IN DELIVERY OF POLAR CODE TRAINING PROGRAMS WORKSHOP

Document HTW 10/6/8 Proposal to incorporate recommendations on Polar Code training programs (Submitted by Argentina, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa and Türkiye)

- **R 1:** Issue manning and training guidelines for non-SOLAS vessels operating in polar waters, in particular pleasure yachts not engaged in trade, and fishing vessels.
- **R 2.** Revise the Polar Code part I-A chapter 12, section 12.2 (Functional Requirements) to include more than "masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch". It is recommended that the following categories of personnel should be included in the scope of the functional requirements:
 - Engineering officers;
 - ratings, both engine-room and deck; and,
 - crew members, and other personnel serving on board the vessel, whose assigned duties are related to safety or environmental prevention while the vessel is operating in polar waters.
- **R 3.** Revise the Polar Code part I-A chapter 12, section 12.3 (Regulations), as required, to specify any particular regulations related to the provision of training for the additional personnel added to section 12.2. If necessary, revise the STCW Convention and STCW Code, as amended, to include specific training requirements for the additional personnel added to section 12.2 (Functional Requirements).

LESSONS LEARNED IN DELIVERY OF POLAR CODE TRAINING PROGRAMS WORKSHOP

Document HTW 10/6/8 Proposal to incorporate recommendations on Polar Code training programs (Submitted by Argentina, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa and Türkiye)

- **R4.** Review STCW Code part A – chapter VI to determine if supplementary practical and/or theoretical training requirements are necessary for personnel operating in cold air temperatures (e.g. practical survival techniques), or in the presence of ice (e.g. launching survival craft and the use of emergency shelters).
- **R5.** Review and revise STCW *specification of minimum standard of competence for ships operating in polar waters* tables A-V/4-1 and A-V/4-2 to provide more specific detail in column 4, **criteria for evaluating competence**, to facilitate a more consistent interpretation of the competence requirements contained in the STCW Code related to polar operations.
- **R6.** Issue training guidelines for shore-based personnel that support the operations of ships operating in polar waters, and, for personnel in maritime administrations that oversee the implementation of provisions in the Polar Code.

LESSONS LEARNED IN DELIVERY OF POLAR CODE TRAINING PROGRAMS WORKSHOP

Document HTW 10/6/8 **Proposal to incorporate recommendations on Polar Code training programs (Submitted by Argentina, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa and Türkiye)**

- **R7.** Issue an IMO circular to highlight that Polar Code training delivered in accordance with the STCW Code provides generic training for operations in polar waters. Companies should be aware that specific operations or operating conditions may demand additional training to ensure that personnel are able to **implement the risk mitigation measures in the PWOM**. Examples of additional training may include: practical ice navigation; operating small boats to transfer cargo and passengers; operating remotely operated vehicles, submarines, and drones; overseeing shore excursions and landing parties; ballast water management; and, supporting diving and helicopter operations.
- **R8.** Revise the instructor qualifications contained in part A (Course Framework, Staff Requirements) for both Model Courses 7.11 and 7.12 to include the following element:
 - "Instructors may demonstrate that they have the necessary up-to-date knowledge by conforming with the provisions of STCW Code A-I/11 paragraph 4 and providing documentary evidence of completing a relevant professional development programme related to operating in polar waters".

LESSONS LEARNED IN DELIVERY OF POLAR CODE TRAINING PROGRAMS WORKSHOP

Document HTW 10/6/8 **Proposal to incorporate recommendations on Polar Code training programs (Submitted by Argentina, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa and Türkiye)**

- **R12.** Update Model Courses 7.11 and 7.12 to assign appropriate references to each detailed learning objective listed in part C (Detailed teaching syllabus).
- **R13.** Convene a working group to define the simulator technical and functional requirements necessary to meet the detailed learning objectives contained in Model Courses 7.11 and 7.12.
- **R14.** Review the training requirements for personnel providing Search and Rescue and oil spill response services in polar waters to determine any additional training that may be required.

REVISION OF 1978 STCW CONVENTION AND CODE

- **Outcome of the HTW 10 (5-9 February 2024)**
 - The Sub-Committee agreed to include some recommendations as part of the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code and invited MSC to consider some other recommendations for further action as appropriate.
- **Outcome of the MSC 108 (15-24 May 2024)**
 - The Committee noted relevant recommendations set out in paragraph 4.2 of document HTW 10/6/8, with regard to the evaluation and implementation of the Polar Code (HTW 10/10, paragraph 6.34.1).
- **Outcome of Inter-sessional Working Group (7–11 October 2024)**
 - During consideration of documents HTW 10/6/8 (Argentina et al.) and ISWGSTCW 1/2/45 (Norway), in relation to proposed additional training for all seafarers serving on board ships in polar waters, the Group agreed that additional training for all seafarers and not just deck officers was necessary. However, until the Polar Code was amended, new training would need to be added to the guidance in part B of the Code.

THANK YOU

SHIPPING IN POLAR WATERS



<https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Polar-default.aspx>