



**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**  
**MERCHANT SHIPPING SECRETARIAT**  
**MINISTRY OF PORTS AND SHIPPING**

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**MSN 02/2019**

18<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Notice to All Ship Owners, Operators, Training Institutes, Authorized Manning Agents,  
Masters of Sri Lankan Flag Ships, and Recognized Organizations**

**TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPS  
OPERATING IN THE POLAR WATERS**

**1. Purpose**

The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers, 1978, (STCW Convention) was amended in 2016 to require mandatory minimum training and qualifications for masters and deck officers on ships operating in polar waters. The amendments include a new Regulation in Chapter V in the annex to the STCW Convention and the corresponding section in the STCW Code. These amendments had entered into force on 1 July 2018 with a transitional provision until 1 July 2020, for seafarers who have commenced sea service in the polar waters prior to 1 July 2018.

**2. Application**

These requirements apply to all Sri Lankan deck COC holders who sailed in the polar waters in accordance with the requirement of Polar Code.

**3. Requirement**

1. Master, chief mate and officers in charge of a navigational watch on ships operating in polar waters in accordance with provisions of the polar code must complete approved trainings and hold appropriate certificate issued in accordance with Regulation V/4 of the STCW Convention, as amended. Officers in charge of navigational watch should hold certificate of

proficiency (COP) in basic training complying with regulation V/4 paragraph 1, while Masters and chief mates should hold COP in advanced training as per regulation V/4 paragraph 3 of the STCW Convention, as amended. Marine Engineer Officers and ratings do not require such COP to serve on ships operating in polar waters. (Annex 1)

## 2. For qualifying for COP

### i. Basic training for ships operating in polar waters

Master, chief mate and officers in charge of a navigational watch shall complete an approved training meeting the standards of competence specified in section A-V/4, paragraph 1 and table A-V/4-1 of the STCW code.

### ii. Advanced training for ships operating in polar waters

Master, chief mate at the management level shall, in addition to meeting the requirements of the above paragraph shall comply with the following:

- Have at least 2 months of approved sea service performing watchkeeping duties on board a ship operating within the polar waters as defined in the Polar code; and
- Complete an approved advanced training for ships operating in polar waters meeting the standards of competence specified in section A-V/4 paragraph 2 and table A-V/4-2 of the STCW Code.

## 3. Transitional Provisions

Master, chief mate and officers in charge of a navigational watch, who have seagoing experience in polar waters prior to 1 July 2018 can qualify for COP in basic or advanced training as follows:

- Have completed at least three months sea service in total as a officer at operational or management level in polar waters or equivalent sea service. Equivalent sea service means service in waters that contain ice in concentration of 2/10 or more; and
- Have attended appropriate training course(s) complying with STCW Code.
- Seafarers who wish to apply COPs under the transitional provisions will have to provide documentary evidence of seagoing service in polar waters or equivalent sea service and attendance an appropriate training course to be considered for issuance of COP at basic or advanced training respectively for ships operating within Polar waters. The transitional provisions are valid until 1 July 2020.
- The Polar Code , part 1-A , Section 12.3.2.5 indicated an ice concentration figure of 2/10. In view of same the equivalent approved sea service can be considered

#### **4. Issuance of Certificate of Proficiency (COP)**

- i. Masters, chief mates and deck officers in charge of a navigational watch who completed the above-mentioned section 2 and 3 requirements can apply for COP basic or advanced training for ships operating in polar waters.
- ii. 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, seagoing service can be considered as ice condition with ice concentration of 2/10" or greater as per the ice nomenclature of the World Meteorological Organization. The ice concentration and nomenclature given in annex 4:

#### **5. Certification**

- i. During the Transitional Period (between 1 July 2018 to 1 July 2018) any Seafarer who has sea service in the polar waters prior to 1 July 2018 and which including the documentary evidence as mentioned in section 3 of above shall be able to apply for the Basic or advanced certification and same will be revalidated according to the other COP revalidation procedure.
- ii. The nautical training institutes are advised to initiate the relevant Polar water training programme for certificate of proficiency (COP) in basic training complying with regulation V/4 paragraph 1, and advanced training for Masters and chief mates as per regulation V/4 paragraph 3 of the STCW Convention, as amended.
- iii. The Core syllabi and other relevant information about the new basic and advanced course for ships operating in Polar waters are available at the Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS).

#### **6. Annexure**

- i. The Antarctic area and Arctic waters, as defined in SOLAS regulations XIV/1.2 and XIV/1.3, respectively, and MARPOL Annex I, regulations 1.11.7 and 46.2; Annex II, regulations 13.8.1 and 21.2; Annex IV, regulations 17.2 and 17.3; and Annex V, regulations 1.14.7 and 13.2
- ii. 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. (Annexure 2)

- iii. Format for record of sea service on ships operating in Polar waters, or other equivalent waters (to be issued by the company). (Annexure 3)
- iv. World Meteorological Organization ice concentration and nomenclature (Annex 4)

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## ANNEX 1

Figures illustrating the Antarctic area and Arctic waters, as defined in SOLAS regulations XIV/1.2 and XIV/1.3, respectively, and MARPOL Annex I, regulations 1.11.7 and 46.2; Annex II, regulations 13.8.1 and 21.2; Annex IV, regulations 17.2 and 17.3; and Annex V, regulations 1.14.7 and 13.2

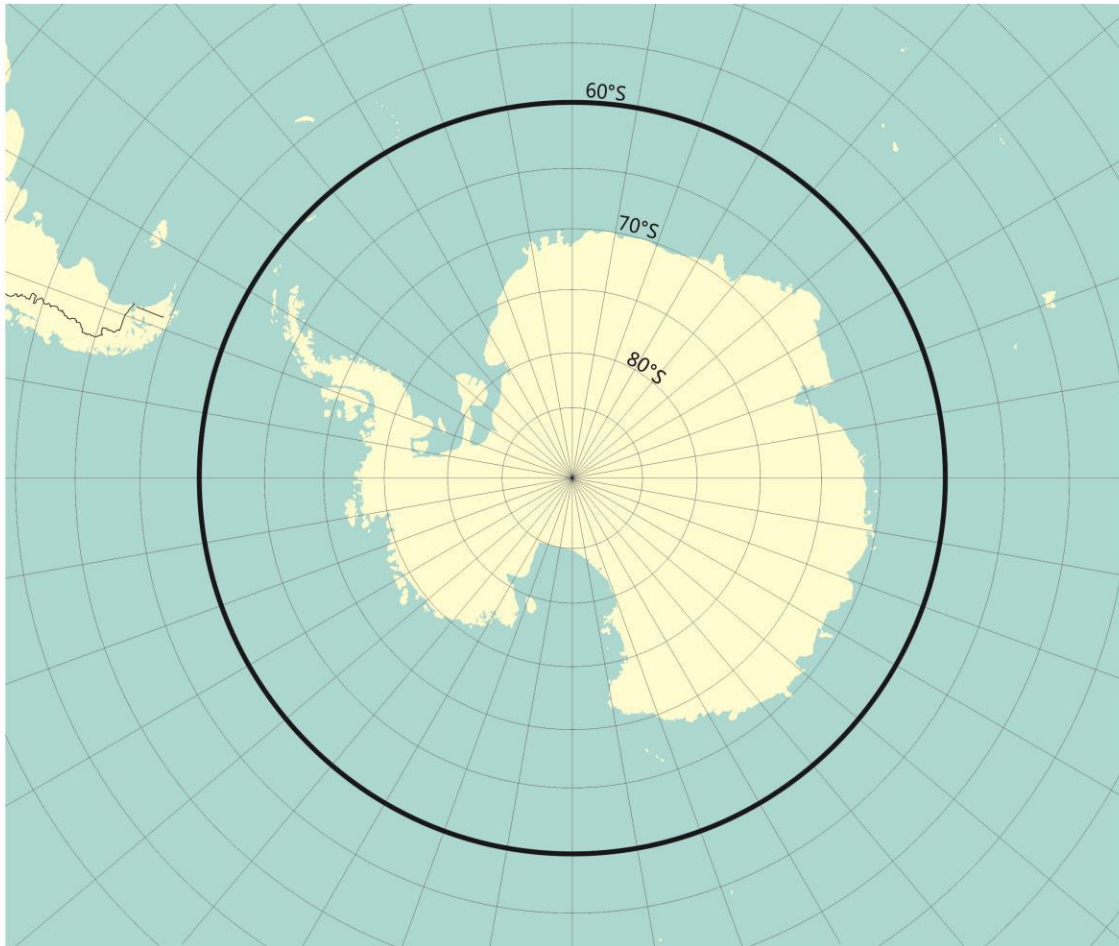




Figure 2 – Maximum extent of Arctic waters application  
It should be noted that this figure is for illustrative purposes only



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ANNEX 2

**Application Format for Sea Service on Ships When Operating Polar Waters or Other Equivalent Approved Seagoing Services after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018**

This is to certify that -----whose date of berth is -----, CDC no. ----- has performed following service and gained experience as indicated under my supervision.

Name of Vessel	Polar or other equivalent	Service From – to	No of Days	Position Lat/Long	Type of Vessel	COC held Grade & number	Rank Served
Total	Experience	(No.of Days)					

Signature of Master .....

Name of Master .....

Ships Stamp

Polar water includes both Arctic and Antarctic waters (as defined in the Polar Code)  
Other equivalent seagoing services mean approved seagoing service outside of Polar water when operating in water with ice concentration 2/10 or greater.

DOI:2017-11-08	Rev. No	00	<b>CONTEXT</b>		Prepared By : MR
Page 1 of 1	DOR:		DOC. NO.	MSS/QMS /DO/11	Reviewed and Approved By: DG
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ANNEX -3

**Record of Sea service in Polar Waters/ Other Equivalent Waters**

To: Examiner

Director General of Merchant Shipping

Colombo -1

Dear Sir,

Sub: Issuance of Certificate of Proficiency (COP) BASIC/ ADVANCE for ships operating Polar Waters.

This is to introduce.....holding CDC No....., who has served on board the vessel(s) in the capacity of..... on worldwide vessel(s), in the capacity of .....on worldwide, manned/operated by .....

We certify the below service in last 5 years which is as per his record of sea service on each of the following ships operating in polar waters or other equivalent waters, as below;

Name of the vessel	Type of the Vessel	Rank Served	Duration Served	Polar or other equivalent	COC held

We hereby request you to issue the Certificate of Proficiency for Basic Training/ Advanced Training, for ships operating in Polar Waters.

Thanking you.  
Yours faithfully,

Name; .....

Designation:.....

(As agents for and on behalf of Owners)

DOI:2017-11-08	Rev. No	00	<b>CONTEXT</b>		Prepared By : MR
Page 1 of 1	DOR:		DOC. NO.	MSS/QMS /DO/11	Reviewed and Approved By: DG
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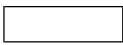







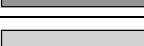
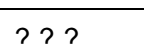






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ANNEX - 4

Colour		RGB colour model	Total concentration (definition from WMO Nomenclature)
alternative	prime		
		000-100-255	Ice free
		150-200-255	Less than one tenth (open water)
▲ ▲ ▲	▲ ▲ ▲	150-200-255	Bergy water
		140-255-160	1/10 - 3/10 (very open ice)
		255-255-000	4/10 - 6/10 (open ice)
		255-125-007	7/10 - 8/10 (close ice)
		255-000-000	9/10 - 10/10 (very close ice)
		145-000-000	10/10 (compact floating ice)
		150-150-150	Fast ice
		210-210-210	Ice shelf
	???	255-255-255	Undefined ice
<b>Optional</b>		255-175-255	7/10-10/10 new ice
		255-100-255	9/10-10/10 nilas, grey ice (mainly on leads)

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Page 1 of 1	DOR:		DOC. NO.	MSS/QMS /DO/11	Reviewed and Approved By: DG
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