

Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice



Updates to Basic Training for Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR)

Ref. TAN 005-25
Issued: 17th Oct 2025

1. Minimum Standards of Competence in Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR)

The 108th Meeting of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee approved amendments to STCW Table A-VI/1-4 – 'Specification of minimum standard of competence in personal safety and social responsibilities (PSSR)'. These amendments take into account the recommendations of the ILO/IMO Joint Tripartite Working Group (JTWG) which identified violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault as one of the most significant issues facing seafarers today.

The amended Table A-VI/1-4 introduces a new competence which aims to ensure seafarers have basic knowledge and understanding of violence and harassment including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault. The insertion to the table is shown on the following page.

The new competency requirement will enter into force on 1 January 2026. From this date, the new requirements shall apply to seafarers who are undertaking their PSSR qualification.

Seafarers who have completed their PSSR training prior to 1 January 2026 are not required to update their training. However, it is recommended to ensure that current PSSR holders are made aware of the latest standard which could be achieved by either internal training or voluntarily attendance of an updated PSSR course.

Voluntarily updating to the latest PSSR standards will enhance crew welfare by providing seafarers with tools to prevent and respond to violence and harassment on board, supporting the mental and physical well-being of all seafarers.

As indicated in [MSN 050](#), where PSSR training is required, it may be taken online and the course may be approved by any STCW Whitelist country.



Contribute to the prevention of and response to violence and harassment ² , including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault	Prevention of violence and harassment: Basic knowledge and understanding of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault, and the continuum of harm Basic knowledge and understanding of the consequences of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault on victims, perpetrators, bystanders and stakeholders, and its effects on safety, health and well-being Understand that, among others, abuse of power relations, discrimination, stress, isolation, fatigue, drugs or alcohol may contribute to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault Responding to violence and harassment:	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course	Acceptable practices and procedures designed for the prevention of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault are observed at all times Able to identify violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault, and the continuum of harm and its effects Acceptable practices and procedures designed for the intervention in and reporting of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault are
	Ability to identify violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault Basic knowledge of the action to take to intervene in and report violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault Understand the basic principles of trauma-informed response and how to provide appropriate support to a victim, bystanders and self		observed at all times



Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

