



Workshop Report

3rd EMSA Workshop on the
"STCW Information System"

Lisbon, 24 October 2008

Report of the 3rd EMSA workshop on the: "STCW Information System"

Background

In accordance with the EMSA Work Programmes for 2006 to 2008, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) was tasked to set up an information system covering a wide range of STCW related matters and aimed at providing reliable data on seafarer certificates, endorsements and education and training institutions, as well as records of compliance of national systems and training institutions with the requirements of the STCW Convention. Such a system should facilitate the provision of reliable information, as a tool for both the European Commission and Member States, helping to ensure a proper implementation of the STCW Convention.

With these objectives in mind, a first EMSA workshop on the STCW Information System (STCW-IS) was held in Lisbon in June 2007, followed by a second in November 2007.

Taking into account the views expressed by the delegates in both workshops and after having conducted a *correspondence exercise* with the Member States, the proposed development plan of the system was substantially revised.

In order to discuss the issue further with the EU/EEA Member States and candidate countries, EMSA held its third workshop on the "Implementation of the STCW Information System" on 24 October 2008.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop had the following main objectives:

- 1) To present and discuss the revised approach to develop the STCW-IS;
- 2) To identify areas of improvement;
- 3) To determine ways forward;
- 4) To present and discuss the information that the system would be able to provide when fully developed;
- 5) To exchange views with the Member States experts about the technological solutions that would fully protect and anonymise the data to be transmitted while retaining the possibility of identifying and removing duplicate records.

In addition to the experts from the EU Member States, representatives from Norway, Croatia and Turkey attended the workshop (25 participants in total).

Workshop Programme

The workshop was hosted and chaired by the EMSA Unit for Safety Assessments & Inspections. The workshop included three presentations:

Presentation 1 - STCW-IS Revised Development Approach

Presentation 2 - STCW-IS Two Step Approach

Presentation 3 - STCW-IS Potential Problems & Identified Solutions

- 1) The first presentation addressed the changes that had been made to the project, its objectives and the revised development approach.
- 2) The second presentation was in two parts:
 - a) The first part described the structure of phases 1 and 2 of the STCW-IS project. Objectives, contents and outputs were detailed especially for the first phase of development;
 - b) In the second part of the presentation, EMSA highlighted how the Agency proposed to update the information available and how it intended to store and analyse the findings from its inspections. Examples of the type of reports the system would be able to provide on the status of implementation of Directive 2001/25/EC were also described.

The following points were made:

- Information on fraud could be of any type identified by the Member States as useful to be disclosed and shared with other States;
- EMSA highlighted that it was interested in knowing the number of students following an educational programme leading to the issue of a certificate of competency. The information was important to analyse the potential replacement of officers. The number of students attending ancillary courses was not relevant at this stage;
- EMSA emphasised that it was not its intention to overload Administrations with extra work, so any update of the information needed would be done through questionnaires developed by EMSA and containing data already in possession of the Agency. Member States would have only to amend, add or confirm data.

The third presentation comprised two parts:

- c) The first part focused mainly on the objectives, challenges and identified solutions for the development of the second phase of the STCW-IS. EMSA also pointed out that questions arising from duplicate data objects would have to be solved individually with each Member State;
- d) The second part discussed the technological solutions EMSA intends to implement to minimise data protection risks and implement a secure and reliable data flow.

Workshop Conclusions

The following conclusions were reached during the subsequent discussions:

- The majority of the Member States experts recognised the added value of developing both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the STCW Information System;
- Member States may propose new fields of data to be introduced to meet their needs;
- The following suggestions put forward by Member States experts were welcomed by EMSA and would be considered during the development of the STCW-IS:
 - Inform third countries about the publication on EMSA's web site of data gathered during the inspections,
 - Make available links to the non-EU countries on-line verification web sites,
- Definition of users profile - i.e. what data would be accessed through a restricted access environment (controlled in EMSA's premises) and what data would be accessed through a public environment (available on the world wide web) and by whom. This would have to be discussed with Member States and the Commission during 2009.

Possible Follow-Up Activities

The next steps to be addressed were identified:

- The Member States would submit for comments the technical solution identified to protect data with their national Data Protection Commissioners. Assistance could be provided by EMSA's legal services when formulating the request to transfer and process data from the seafarers' certificates and endorsements;
- Delegates would discuss with their Maritime Administrations the need to include other fields of data in the STCW-IS and inform EMSA accordingly;
- EMSA would inform the Administrative Board of the outcome of the Cost Benefit Analysis;
- EMSA would send to the Member States a list of the data to be requested from the national seafarer registry systems;

Attachments

- (1) Workshop Agenda
- (2) List of participants

The workshop-related documents and presentations are available on the EMSA website (www.emsa.europa.eu).

Agenda

3rd Workshop on the STCW Information System

24th October 2008

EMSA

Avenida Dom Joao II
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1998-001 Lisboa

- 0900 – 0930: *Reception to the Participants*
- 0930 – 0935: **Opening of the Workshop and Welcome to the Participants** – Jaime Veiga
- 0935 – 0945: **Objectives of the Workshop** – Jaime Veiga
- 0945 – 1015: **STCW-IS – Revised Development Approach** – Jaime Veiga/Mats Hammander
- 1015 – 1100: **Structure of the STCW-IS: Phases 1 and 2** – Mircea Udrea
- 1100 – 1130: *Coffee Break*
- 1130 – 1230: **STCW-IS Phase 1: Presentation** – Mircea Udrea/Margarida Martins
- 1230 – 1400: *Lunch*
- 1400 – 1530: **STCW-IS Phase 2 – Potential problems and identified solutions** – Mircea Udrea/António Anciães
- 1530 – 1600: **Conclusions**
- 1600 – 1630: **Closing**

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