

# PSCircular 109

22 DECEMBER 2025

## GUIDANCE FOR PSCOs CONCERNING UPDATE OF STCW RELATED PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

1. Starting 1 January 2026, every new seafarer taking their initial STCW Basic Safety Training will face an important change.
2. The IMO has approved an amendment to the STCW Code that adds new learning standards on the prevention of and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault. The update comes through IMO Resolution [MSC.560\(108\)](#), which modifies Table A-VI/1-4 of the STCW Code.
3. This table outlines competencies for Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities—one of the four parts of Basic Safety Training where a new competency has been added:

“Contribute to the prevention of and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault.”
4. Effective January 1, 2026, all STCW Basic Training programmes must incorporate the updated table as part of the curriculum.
5. In accordance with STCW Article X, paragraph 1, Port State Control Officers are to accept certificates issued by a party to the Convention, unless there is clear evidence that the certificate was fraudulently obtained or that the certificate holder is not the individual to whom it was originally issued.
6. For existing seafarers, there is no requirement resulting from MSC.560(108) to provide evidence of compliance with the updated standard of competence as outlined in Table A-VI/1-4.
7. This circular is valid until 31 December 2026