

# STCW

<b>Official reference</b>	International Convention on standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers	
<b>Official website</b>	www.stcw.org	
<b>Relevant dates</b>	Document	7/07/1978
	Entry into force	28/04/1984
	Ratification by Belgium	16/08/1982
<b>Policy level</b>	International	
<b>Type of instrument</b>	Convention	
<b>Geographical reach</b>	World seas	
<b>International contact point</b>	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	
<b>Competent authorities in Belgium</b>	Federal authorities; FPS Mobility and Transport; DG Shipping	
<b>Federal ratification</b>	Wet van 16 augustus 1982 houdende goedkeuring van het Internationaal Verdrag betreffende de normen voor zeevarenden inzake opleiding, brevettering en wachtdienst, en van de Bijlage, opgemaakt te Londen op 7 juli 1978	

## // abstract:

The STCW Convention is an international convention defining the minimum standards for seafarers, regarding training, certification and watchkeeping. The clauses apply to ships of Flag States that have ratified the convention, as well as to ships of non-Contracting Parties that call at a port of a Contracting Party. The 1995 amendments to the convention included an STCW code with the technical details and features of the convention. Part A of this code is obligatory, while part B is recommended. The Contracting Parties also need to furnish detailed information to the IMO regarding the administrative measures that have been taken for the implementation of the convention. In 2010, the convention was revised again in a detailed way (Manila amendments) to keep the training standards up to date with the new technological and operational requirements. These amendments include improved measures for the prevention of fraudulent practices associated with certificates of competency and evaluation procedures, new requirements on the hours of rest for seafarers, new certification standards for able seafarers, new training for staff serving on board ships operating in polar waters, new training for the use of Dynamic Positioning Systems (DPS), new requirements in certain trainings and new clauses regarding drug and alcohol use.