



## MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE MSN 3025

*(This Merchant Shipping Notice is issued under Section 209 of the Merchant Shipping Act Cap 165 as amended by Act No. 6 of 2019)*

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF IMO RESOLUTION MSC.560(108) – AMENDMENTS TO THE PERSONAL SAFETY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES (PSSR) COURSE.**

*Notice is hereby issued to all shipowners, operators, Maritime training institutes, Masters, Owners' representatives, Seafarers, Seafarers union, Seafarers recruitment and placement agencies, Recognised Organisations and other Maritime Stakeholders.*

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#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The United Republic of Tanzania (URT) is a member State to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1974. IMO is the United Nations specialised agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) is responsible for overseeing maritime safety, security, and marine environment protection, among other functions. TASAC is also responsible for overseeing the training and certification of seafarers are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, and the Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Manning) Regulations, 2016.

TASAC as the Maritime Administration of the URT, has reviewed and approved the revised PSSR curriculum in compliance with IMO Resolution MSC.560(108). The provisions of these amendments shall apply to all training leading to certification under Regulation VI/1- 4. The amended PSSR curriculum shall be implemented with effect from **24<sup>th</sup> December, 2025**.

## **2.0 PURPOSE**

This Merchant Shipping Notice is issued to inform shipowners, operators, Maritime Training Institutions, Seafarer's Union, Seafarers and other maritime stakeholders of the implementation of IMO Resolution MSC.560(108), which introduces amendments to the STCW Code Table A VI/1-4, the Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR) course under the STCW Basic Safety Training framework, addressing prevention of and response to sexual assault, sexual harassment, bullying, and other forms of harassment on board ships.

## **3.0 SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

This Merchant Shipping Notice shall be applicable to the following:

- a) All TASAC - accredited Maritime Training Institutions offering the PSSR course;
- b) All seafarers required to undertake STCW Basic Safety Training;
- c) Shipowners and operators employing seafarers certified under the STCW Convention;
- d) Flag and Port State Control Inspectors;
- e) All Masters on board ship; and
- f) Other related maritime stakeholders.

## **4.0 LEGAL FOUNDATION**

This Merchant Shipping Notice is issued in accordance to the following legal basis:

- a) The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended;
- b) IMO Resolution MSC.560(108), adopted on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024; and
- c) The Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Manning) Regulations, 2016

## **5.0 MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTIONS**

All approved Maritime Training Institutions shall:

- a) Implement the revised PSSR curriculum as approved by TASAC;
- b) Ensure instructors are adequately trained and competent to deliver the amended content; and
- c) Maintain records demonstrating compliance with the approved curriculum.

## 6.0 GUIDANCE FOR COMPLIANCE

All PSSR certificates issued by TASAC under STCW Regulation VI/ 1-4 prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 by virtue of the provisions in this notice as from 01<sup>st</sup> January 2026 will have complied with the provisions of IMO Resolution MSC.560(108).

### 6.1 After 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026:

Seafarers holding old Certificates of Proficiency (CoPs) shall be required to complete additional training or refresher modules to address newly introduced content on bullying and harassment. In particular, seafarers who hold a valid Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR) Certificate of Proficiency at the time IMO Resolution MSC.560(108) enters into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2026 shall generally be required to undertake updating training. This training will focus on new competencies, primarily related to the prevention of and response to violence and harassment.

### 6.2 Specific requirements depend on the certificate's validity and the seafarer's embarkation status:

- a) **For certificates expiring after 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2026:** Seafarers can apply for revalidation and issued with a valid PSSR certificate incorporated with the new amendments.
- b) **For holders of valid certificates:** Seafarers can apply for revalidation;
- c) **For seafarers currently onboard:** They must complete the required updating training before their next embarkation or prior to applying for revalidation of their Certificate of Proficiency; and
- d) **For seafarers holding expired Certificates of Proficiency or first-time applicants:** They are required to complete the full revised Basic Safety Training (BST) course, which incorporates all new competency requirements.

The new competency added to the STCW Code (Table A-VI/1-4) mandates training on *“Contribute to the prevention of and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying, and sexual assault.”* The updating training ensures that all seafarers meet these new international standards, promoting a safe and respectful onboard culture.

### 6.3 Flag states and Port State Control (PSC) inspections:

Inspectors will verify that crew training records demonstrate compliance with the amended STCW Code. A crew member holding an old Certificate of Proficiency without evidence of having completed the required updating training may result in the issuance of a deficiency.

## **7.0 PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE**

Failure to comply with this Notice may result in administrative action in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Manning) Regulations, 2016.

## **8.0 EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN 3025) shall become into force on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025.

## **9.0 CONTACT INFORMATION**

Any information concerning this Merchant Shipping Notice should be addressed in writing to the Registrar through the address below:

Director General,  
Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC),  
PSSSF Tower Building, 8th Floor, Plot No. 20/21, Garden Avenue/Ohio Street,  
P. O. Box 989, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.  
Email: [dg@tasac.go.tz](mailto:dg@tasac.go.tz) or [info@tasac.go.tz](mailto:info@tasac.go.tz)  
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