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# The Need for International Standardization of Education and Evaluation of Maritime English

Proposals of Amendment to STCW  
regarding English Proficiency

**The MarineCatchers**

# INDEX



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# 1 | INTRODUCTION



# Backgrounds

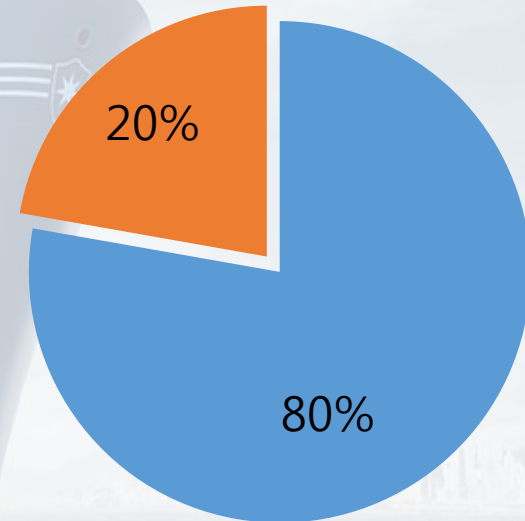
Shipping : most globalized industry

80% of world's merchant ship has multicultural crews

Need for a common language

STCW convention suggests English

(Magramo & Cellada 2009; Pyne & Koester 2005)



# 1 | INTRODUCTION



# Backgrounds

(2015's BIMCO Manpower Report)

English



Non-English





# Backgrounds

## TOP FIVE COUNTRIES

**China**



**The Philippines**



**Indonesia**



**The Russian Federation**



**Ukraine**



(2015's BIMCO Manpower Report)

**Difficulties in using English on ships**

# 1 | INTRODUCTION

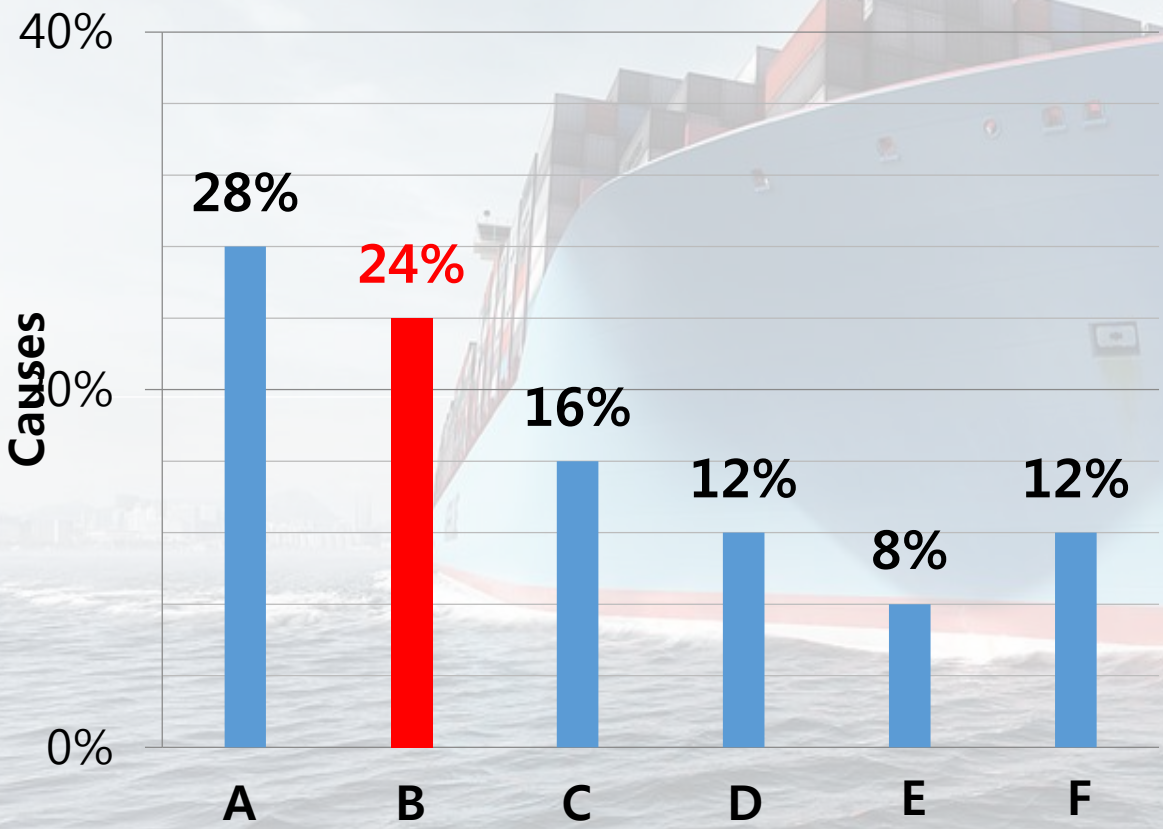
# Backgrounds



■ A Use of navigation equipment

■ B Communication

■ C Equipment failure including engines



## Miscommunication

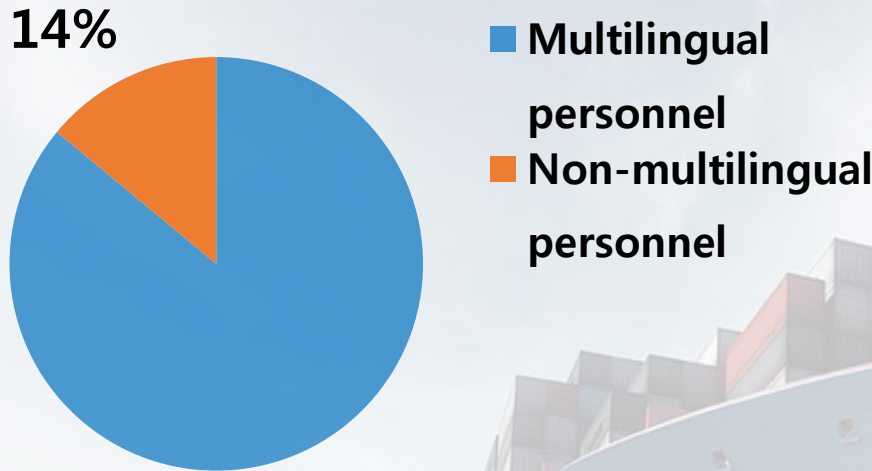


**24% of marine accident**

(Ziarati, 2006)



# Backgrounds



86%



Frequently **unable** to render

**Maritime English Skills**



Risking and causing damage to **lives, property and environment**

(Trenkner, 2007)



# Accidents

## Scandinavian Star accident



- ✓ The fire in the ferry
- ✓ 158 people died



Due to **poor English speaking skills**

(Preaching the Gospel of the SMCP in Spain: The Jovellanos Centre Experience José Manuel Díaz Pérez, Jovellanos Centre (Spain))

## Royal Majesty



# Accidents

✓ Grounding of the "Royal Majesty"



**Miscommunication**  
between a ship and fishing  
boats

# Accidents

**Silja Opera  
In the Baltic  
In 2003**



Due to  
**lack of English  
communication skills**  
among mariners from non-  
English speaking countries

**The collision  
Between Xu Chang  
Hai & Aberdeen  
In 2000**

English proficiency is directly related to **the safety of ships**

# 1 | INTRODUCTION



- ✓ Spatially isolated
- ✓ Lack of communication in Multi-cultural environment



Resulting in  
**poor task performance**



**Reliable qualification procedures**  
for non-native English speaking  
mariners are **essential**

## 1 | INTRODUCTION



**Established  
several provisions  
for evaluating  
English proficiency**

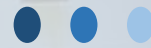
**Deck officers**

**STCW Code Part A  
Chapter II Standards  
regarding the master  
and deck department**

**Engineer officers**

**STCW Code Part A  
Chapter III Standards  
regarding engine  
department**

**We have found three major problems in the status quo**



# 2 | DISCUSSION

The phrases used in STCW regarding Maritime English are **too ambiguous**

## Engineer officers

Column 1	Column 3
<b>Competence</b>	<b>Methods for demonstrating competence</b>
Use English in written and oral form	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from practical instruction

(STCW Code Part A Chapter III /Section A-III/1)

## Deck officers

Column 1	Column 3
<b>Competence</b>	<b>Methods for demonstrating competence</b>
Use the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases and use English in written and oral form	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from practical instruction

(STCW Code Part A Chapter II /Section A-II/1)

**Poor reliability of the qualification**

## Loop holes from STCW

### Evaluation of competence

17 The arrangements for evaluating competence should be designed to take account of different methods of assessment which can provide different types of evidence about candidates' competence, e.g.:

- .1 direct observation of work activities (including seagoing service);**
- .2 skills/proficiency/competency tests;**
- .3 projects and assignments;**
- .4 evidence from previous experience; and**
- .5 written, oral and computer-based questioning techniques\***.

\* The relevant IMO Model Course(s) may be of assistance in the preparation of courses.

18 One or more of the first four methods listed should almost invariably be used to provide evidence of ability, in addition to appropriate questioning techniques to provide evidence of supporting knowledge and understanding.



## Loop holes from STCW

Ex)

✓ Many countries

→ Avoid direct-testings

→ Not execute oral interviews

“The evaluation on English communication skills **can be** conducted through interviews”

(Article 13 of the Enforcement Decree of Ship Personnel Act, paragraph 5.)

Due to lack of detailed enforcement measures,  
**Not being conducted.**



## Loop holes from STCW

# Problem 2

4. A synchronous motor is one that ( ).

- 가. is synchronized
- 나. turns in synchronization with the alternator
- 사. converts DC to AC
- 아. converts AC to DC

9. Select proper words for the blank.  
"The vessel ( ① ) starboard quarter of you wishes to overtake you.  
Do you agree ( ② ) the vessel's intention?"

2. Select one which is not included in IMC standard wheel orders.

- 가. Starboard!
- 나. Port twenty five!
- 사. Meet her!
- 아. Nothing to port!

- 가. ① for      ② to
- 나. ① on        ② to
- 사. ① to        ② with
- 아. ① in        ② with

(Third class marine officer examinations)

## Multiple choices



**Ineffective**  
in measuring  
speaking or  
writing skills

Differently required skills depending on **mariners' positions** are obscure

## Engineer officers

Column 2
<b>Knowledge, understanding and proficiency</b>
Adequate knowledge of the English language to enable the officer to use engineering publications and to perform engineering duties

(STCW Code Part A Chapter III /Section A-III/1)

## Deck officers

Column 2
<b>Knowledge, understanding and proficiency</b>
<i>English language</i>
Adequate knowledge of the English language to enable the officer to use charts and other nautical publications, to understand meteorological information and messages concerning ship's safety and operation, to communicate with other ships, coast stations and VTS centres and to perform the officer's duties also with a multilingual crew, including the ability to use and understand the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases(IMO SMCP)

(STCW Code Part A Chapter II /Section A-II/1)

**NEEDS SUPPLEMENTATION AS WELL**

# 2 | DISCUSSION



(STCW Convention & Codes, 2010 Manila Amendments)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence

Column 1
<b>Competence</b>
Use the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases and use English in written and oral form

**Chapter II**

Column 1
<b>Competence</b>
Use English in written and oral form

**Chapter III**

# 2 | DISCUSSION



# Revision Plan1

## Column 2 : Knowledge, understanding and proficiency

21/34

### Deck officers

#### Column 2

#### Knowledge, understanding and proficiency

##### *English language*

Adequate knowledge of the English language to enable the officer to use charts and other nautical publications, to understand meteorological information and messages concerning ship's safety and operation, to communicate with other ships, coast stations and VTS centres and to perform the officer's duties also with a multilingual crew, including the ability to use and understand the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (IMO SMCP)

(STCW Code (Table A II /1))

#### Column 2

#### Knowledge, understanding and proficiency

##### *English language*

Adequate knowledge of the English language to enable the officer:

1. to use charts and nautical publications
2. to understand meteorological information and messages concerning ship's safety and operation
3. to respond quickly to emergency
4. to interact in external communications from ship to shore, shore to ship and ship to ship
5. to interact during on-board communication
6. to perform officer's duties also with a multilingual crew including the ability to use and understand the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases

# 2 | DISCUSSION



**Column 2 :**  
Knowledge, understanding and proficiency

## Engineer officers

### Column 2

#### Knowledge, understanding and proficiency

Adequate knowledge of the English language to enable the officer to use engineering publications and to perform engineering duties

(STCW Code (Table A III/1))



# Revision Plan1

### Column 2

#### Knowledge, understanding and proficiency

##### *English language*

Adequate knowledge and ability of the English language to enable the officer

1. to use engineering publications
2. to perform engineering duties
3. to communicate between the Engine Room and the Bridge and during emergencies
4. to record the oil record book, engine room log book and to write the docking indent
5. to have communication skills during the PSC inspection at the foreign port



## Column 3 : Methods for demonstrating competence

### Engineer & Deck officers

#### Column 3

#### Methods for demonstrating competence

Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from practical instruction

(STCW Code (Table A II and III /1))



#### Column 3

#### Methods for demonstrating competence

Assessment of evidence obtained from practical instructions and **examination including oral test and writing test** with the following test items:

Oral tests can require test takers:

1. to describe a situation presented in a form of a picture
2. to provide a solution for an emergency or a distress situation that is presented aurally
3. to respond properly to aurally presented phrases for communicational purposes

Writing test can require test takers:

1. to translate a passage presented in their native language into English
2. to write a summary of a reading passage and an aurally presented explanation regarding the passage
3. to write phrases used in log books according to the presented instructions



## Column 4 : Criteria for evaluating competence

### Engineer & Deck officers

#### Column 4

#### Criteria for evaluating competence

##### **Engineer officers(Chapter III)**

Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from practical instruction

##### **Deck officers(Chapter II)**

Communications are clear and understood

(STCW Code (Table A II and III /1))



#### Column 4

#### Criteria for evaluating competence

English language publications and messages relevant to the safety of the ship are correctly interpreted or drafted. Communication in written and oral form are clear and understood for different situations indicated in Column 2.



## Example of maritime English yardstick

(Cole&amp;Trenkner,2009)

Yardstick of ME Competence for ships officers		ICAO Language Proficiency Standards	
Band 9	Expert User	Level 6	Expert
Band 8	Very Good User	Level 5	Extended
Band 7	Good User		
Band 6	Competent User	Level 4	Operational
Band 5	Effective User		
Band 4	Modest User	Level 3	Pre-operational
Band 3	Limited User	Level 2	Elementary
Band 2	Intermittent User		
Band 1	Non User	Level 1	Pre-elementary

**We urge the formation of Ad hoc committee**



# 3 | CONCLUSION

# 3 | CONCLUSION

**For safety & task performance.**

**→ Need detailed instructions**

# 3 | CONCLUSION



The expression  
regarding ME in  
STCW

**Too broad &  
ambiguous**

English skills  
required

**Lack  
professional  
details**

# 3 | CONCLUSION

## Deck officers

(STCW Code Part A Chapter II /Section A-II/1)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Use the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases and use English in written and oral form	<p><i>English language</i> Adequate knowledge of the English language to enable the officer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to use charts and nautical publications</li> <li>2. to understand meteorological information and messages concerning ship's safety and operation</li> <li>3. to respond quickly to emergency</li> <li>4. to interact in external communications from ship to shore, shore to ship and ship to ship</li> <li>5. to interact during on-board communication</li> <li>6. to perform officer's duties also with a multilingual crew including the ability to use and understand the IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases</li> </ol>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical instructions and examination including oral test and writing test with the following test items:</p> <p>Oral tests can require test takers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to describe a situation presented in a form of a picture</li> <li>2. to provide a solution for an emergency or a distress situation that is presented aurally</li> <li>3. to respond properly to aurally presented phrases for communicational purposes</li> </ol> <p>Writing test can require test takers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to translate a passage presented in their native language into English</li> <li>2. to write a summary of a reading passage and an aurally presented explanation regarding the passage</li> <li>3. to write phrases used in log books according to the presented instructions</li> </ol>	<p>English language publications and messages relevant to the safety of the ship are correctly interpreted or drafted.</p> <p>Communication in written and oral form are clear and understood for different situations indicated in Column 2.</p>

# 3 | CONCLUSION



## Engineer Officers

(STCW Code Part A Chapter III /Section A-III/1)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
<p><b>Competence</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge, understanding and proficiency</b></p>	<p><b>Methods for demonstrating competence</b></p>	<p><b>Criteria for evaluating competence</b></p>
<p>Use English in written and oral form</p>	<p><i>English language</i>                      Adequate knowledge and ability of the English language to enable the officer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to use engineering publications</li> <li>2. to perform engineering duties</li> <li>3. to communicate between the Engine Room and the Bridge and during emergencies</li> <li>4. to record the oil record book, engine room log book and to write the docking indent</li> <li>5. to have communication skills during the PSC inspection at the foreign port</li> </ol>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical instructions and examination including oral test and writing test with the following test items:</p> <p>Oral tests can require test takers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to describe a situation presented in a form of a picture</li> <li>2. to provide a solution for an emergency or a distress situation that is presented aurally</li> <li>3. to respond properly to aurally presented phrases for communicational purposes</li> </ol> <p>Writing test can require test takers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to translate a passage presented in their native language into English</li> <li>2. to write a summary of a reading passage and an aurally presented explanation regarding the passage</li> <li>3. to write phrases used in log books according to the presented instructions</li> </ol>	<p>English language publications and messages relevant to the safety of the ship are correctly interpreted or drafted.</p> <p>Communication in written and oral form are clear and understood for different situations indicated in Column 2.</p>



4 | **EXPECTATION & Q&A**



## Maritime English Education

Ship  
officers

English  
majors



**The balance of  
two types of instructors**





## Linguistically qualified ship officers

1. Better task performance
2. Safer trip
3. Better quality of life on ships

**Thank you**

**Q & A**

