Regulation II/8
Revalidation of certificates for GMDSS radio operators

1 Every GMDSS radio operator holding a certificate issued or recognized under this chapter of the Convention who is serving at sea or intends to return to sea after a period ashore shall, in order to continue to qualify for seagoing service, be required, at intervals not exceeding five years, to:

.1 meet the standards of medical fitness prescribed in regulation I/12; and

.2 establish continued professional competence in accordance with section A-II/8 of the STCW-F Code.

2 Each Party shall compare the standards of competence which it required of candidates for certificates issued before 1 January 2031 with those specified for the appropriate certificate in part A of the STCW-F Code, and shall determine the need for requiring the holders of such certificates to undergo appropriate refresher and updating training or assessment.

3 The Party shall, in consultation with those concerned, formulate or promote the formulation of a structure of refresher and updating courses as provided for in section A-II/8 of the STCW-F Code.

4 For the purpose of updating the knowledge of GMDSS radio operators, each Administration shall ensure that the texts of recent changes in national and international regulations concerning radiocommunications and relevant to the safety of life at sea are made available to fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag.

CHAPTER III
Basic training and onboard safety familiarization for all fishing vessel personnel

Regulation III/1
Mandatory minimum requirements for basic training and onboard safety familiarization for all fishing vessel personnel

1 Fishing vessel personnel shall, before being assigned to any shipboard duties:

.1 receive basic training approved by the Administration and onboard safety familiarization; and

.2 meet the appropriate standard of competence,

in accordance with section A-III/1 of the STCW-F Code.

2 Where basic training is not included in the qualification for the certificate to be issued, a certificate of proficiency shall be issued, indicating that the holder has successfully completed the course in basic training.

3 A candidate who holds a valid certificate of proficiency issued in accordance with the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention need not be reassessed in those standards of competence listed in tables A-III/1-1, A-III/1-2, A-III/1-3 and A-III/1-4 of the STCW-F Code that were required at a higher or equivalent level for the issuance of the corresponding 1978 STCW Convention certificate.

CHAPTER IV
Watchkeeping

Regulation IV/1
Fitness for duty

The watch system shall be such that the efficiency of watchkeeping personnel is not impaired by fatigue. Duties shall be so organized that the first watch at the commencement of a voyage and the subsequent relieving watches are sufficiently rested and otherwise fit for duty.

Regulation IV/2
Basic watchkeeping principles to be observed on board fishing vessels

1 Administrations shall direct the attention of owners and operators of fishing vessels, skippers, chief engineer officers and all watchkeeping personnel to the requirements, principles and guidance set out in the STCW-F Code which shall be observed to ensure that a safe watch is maintained at all times.

2 The skipper of every fishing vessel shall ensure that watchkeeping arrangements are adequate for maintaining a safe watch or watches, taking into account the prevailing circumstances and conditions and that, under the skipper's general direction:

.1 officers in charge of the navigational watch are responsible for navigating the fishing vessel safely during their periods of duty, when they shall be physically present on the navigating bridge or in a directly associated location such as the chartroom or bridge control room at all times;

.2 radio operators are responsible for maintaining a continuous radio watch on appropriate frequencies during their periods of duty;

.3 officers in charge of an engineering watch, as defined in the STCW-F Code, under the direction of the chief engineer officer, shall be immediately available and on call to attend the machinery spaces and, when required, shall be physically present in the machinery space during their periods of responsibility; and

.4 an appropriate and effective watch or watches are maintained for the purpose of safety at all times.

3 The basic watchkeeping principles, including but not limited to those set out in the STCW-F Code, shall be taken into account on all fishing vessels. However, a Party may exclude very small fishing vessels operating in limited waters from fully observing the basic principles.