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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION  
AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978**

**Application of provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention  
to mobile offshore units (MOUs)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 1998), having been made aware of the need to clarify the applicability of the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) in relation to mobile offshore units (MOUs), agreed that the requirements of the Convention should be read and interpreted as follows:

- .1 the provisions of the STCW Convention apply to the maritime crews of self-propelled MOUs proceeding on voyages;
- .2 the provisions of the STCW Convention do not apply to non self-propelled MOUs or to MOUs on station;
- .3 when considering appropriate standards of training and certification when an MOU is on station, the country of registry should take account of relevant IMO recommendations\*. In particular, all maritime crew members on self-propelled MOUs and, where required, on other units should meet the requirements of the STCW Convention, as amended;
- .4 self-propelled MOUs proceeding on international voyages are required to carry safe manning documents;
- .5 MOUs on station are subject to the national legislation of the coastal State in whose Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) they are operating. Such coastal States should also take account of relevant IMO recommendations\* and should not prescribe higher standards for MOUs registered in other countries than the standards applied to MOUs registered in that coastal State; and
- .6 all special personnel employed on board MOUs (whether or not self-propelled) should be provided with appropriate familiarization and basic safety training in accordance with relevant IMO recommendations\*.

2 Member Governments are invited to bring the above clarifications to the attention of all concerned.

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\*Resolutions: A.583(13), A.712(17) and A.828(19) and draft Assembly resolution on Recommendations on Training of Personnel on Mobile Offshore Units (MOUs).