OPERATIONS – SEAFARER
CERTIFICATION

GUIDANCE NOTE

SA MARITIME QUALIFICATIONS CODE

Personal Survival Techniques
STCW A-VI/1-1
Document Compiled by

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Approval

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<th>Name</th>
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Distribution

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>SAMSA personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Institutions, Seafarers</td>
<td>External Stakeholders</td>
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Revision History

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<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Summary of Changes</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>01/07/2018</td>
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Background and Context

Introduction

I. The SAMSA Code is a set of Documents used by SAMSA to bring into effect and operationalise the requirements (standards) for training, assessment and certification of Seafarers.

II. Majority of these standards have to meet minimum standards set internationally for seafarers whose qualifications have to meet international standards. The primary sectors whose training, assessment and certification have to meet international standards are;

II.I. Fishing – the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (STCW-F), coming into force in South Africa on 01 July 2017

II.II. Seagoing Merchant Vessels - The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, which is already in force in South Africa.

III. Where the SAMSA Code is giving effect to international standard(s), that international standard shall be the primary basis. Each standard on the SAMSA Code shall bear the name of the particular international standard being used as it’s primary basis, with the exception of the numbering which is unique to the SAMSA Code.

IV. The SAMSA Code, in the adoption of the international standards, shall take into account other requirements with regards to implementation procedures.

Legal Basis of the SAMSA Code


V.I. The STCW Convention, in Regulation I/6, requires that

“... the education and training objectives and related standards of competence to be achieved are clearly defined and that the levels of knowledge, understanding and
skills appropriate to the examinations and assessments required under the Convention are identified. The objectives and related quality standards may be specified separately for different courses and training programmes and shall cover the administration of the certification system.”

and it further states that

“...application of the quality standards shall cover the administration of the certification system, all training courses and programmes, examinations and assessments carried out by or under the authority of a Party and the qualifications and experience required of instructors and assessors, having regard to the policies, systems, controls and internal quality assurance reviews established to ensure achievement of the defined objectives.”

V.II. To give effect to these requirements, SAMSA’s Quality Standards System comprises of primarily two elements, viz;

V.II.1. The SAMSA Code, to deal with “...the education and training objectives and related standards of competence to be achieved are clearly defined and that the levels of knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to the examinations and assessments required...”, which this document forms part of

V.II.2. The OPS-500 system, to deal “...quality standards shall cover the administration of the certification system, all training courses and programmes, examinations and assessments carried out by...”, which then provides pro-forma documents and operational procedures

VI. The SAMSA Code is set to meet and exceed the minimum standards that inform the creation of a specific standard. It primarily seeks to ensure that the candidate (seafarer) is skilled in a manner he can perform both regular and emergency duties that may be assigned to them on the basis of that qualification.
Continuous Improvement and feedback

VII. Seafarers, Employers and Training Institutions are invited to use a critical eye when using the SAMSA Code and provide feedback to SAMSA in writing, such criticism may focus on its effectiveness, implementation and application.

VIII. As this document may be reviewed without notice, users are invited to download the latest copy each time they use the document. However, when submitting an accreditation, the application will be assessed on the basis of the requirements that existed immediately prior to the application being made.
Personal Survival Techniques

Applicable international standards

1. This standard has been developed to meet the requirements of Personal Survival Techniques as contained in Section A-VI/1, Table A-VI/1-1, Chapter VI of the STCW Code.

2. Persons who complete the Personal Survival Techniques training successfully may be eligible to apply for a Certificate of Proficiency in Personal Survival Techniques at SAMSA.

Standard of competence (Objectives of the Training)

3. The training in Personal Survival Techniques is for all Seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board ship on the business of that ship as part of the ship's complement including some Port Operations vessels. The objective of the training is so that all seafarers understand the basic survival techniques required to survive the perils of the sea. The objectives and outcomes of the training should be that candidates can;

3.1. Survive at sea in the event of ship abandonment,

3.2. Identify emergency situations which may occur,

3.3. Identify life-saving equipment normally carried on ships,

3.4. Identify and use equipment found in a survival craft,

3.5. Locate personal life-saving appliances, and

3.6. Understand the principles concerning survival at sea.

Pre-requisites for entry into the course

4. The course is open to all persons who intend serving on board seagoing merchant vessels and must be of a minimum age of 16 years or older.
Education, Training & Assessment of candidates

5. The education and training of the seafarer must follow a systematic and logical sequence with respect to the minimum subject matter which is to be covered. The subject matter can be found in column 2 of the table below. The training shall, as a minimum, be a combination of lecturing, practical exercises and examples and may also include audio visual aids.

6. To be considered a successful candidate in this course, the candidate shall have demonstrated their competence in accordance column 3 of the table below. The assessment methods used to assess such competence may consist of a theoretical written assessment together with a practical demonstration of competence – where a learner’s conceptual understanding of something is evaluated through the approach he/she takes in applying it practically. All assessments for this course are formal and thus shall be recorded accordingly. These assessments methods may be divided into;

6.1. Formative assessment is an assessment designed to feed into further learning, and is very important for the learning process. A range of formal, non-formal, and informal formative assessment procedures are used to focus teaching and learning to improve learner success. Formative assessment may be used as part of a formal (final) assessment on this course.

6.2. Practical Assessment may be described as an assessment made by the assessor when observing the manipulation of objects to determine the competency of a candidate on a specific skill. Practical requirements on particular KUP’s relating to applying first aid shall be assessed. Institution are required to include checklist for each KUP where practical assessment is required. For this course, candidates must demonstrate, practically, the ability to;

6.2.1. don a lifejacket,

6.2.2. don and use an immersion suit,

6.2.3. safely jump from a height (3.0 m) into the water,
6.2.4. right an inverted liferaft while wearing a lifejacket,

6.2.5. swim while wearing a lifejacket,

6.2.6. keep afloat without a lifejacket, [and any form of floatation aid]

6.2.7. board a survival craft from the ship and water while wearing a lifejacket,

6.2.8. take initial actions on boarding survival craft to enhance chance of survival,

6.2.9. stream a drogue or sea-anchor,

6.2.10. operate survival craft equipment,

6.2.11. Simulate the operation of location devices, including radio equipment.

6.2.12. Demonstrate the launching and inflating of a liferaft (not every candidate)

Outcomes of the prescribed practical assessments on this course must count towards the final assessment of this course.

6.3. **Summative assessment** is conducted at the end of learning or whole learning programmes, to evaluate learning related to a particular qualification, part-qualification, or professional designation. Summative assessment of learning usually has as its aim on the evaluation and/or the certification of learning that has already taken place, and the extent to which this learning has been successful. There must be a formal Summative Assessment at the end of the course. During the accreditation processes, an institution shall submit a minimum of three Summative Assessments tests.

**Duration of the course**

7. Training in Personal Survival Techniques shall be conducted over a period of no less than 2 days of theoretical and practical training.
Maximum number candidates per course

8. The maximum number of candidates permitted for this course shall not exceed the maximum capacity of the liferaft in use, subject to a maximum of 20 persons.

9. For practical exercises and assessments, the ratio of candidates to facilitator/assessor shall be 10:1 for all candidates actively participating in any practical exercise.

Requirements from training institutions

10. When developing or reviewing training material for Personal Survival Techniques, this part of the SAMSA Code shall be included in the front pages of the training material. The course material shall include a contents page which clearly identifies the content covered in the course.

11. All the equipment shall be able to perform to the SOLAS performance requirements of firefighting equipment. Clarity on the specifications contained herein shall be sought from the SOLAS Convention and the associated Codes, Resolutions and Circulars, etc. of the IMO

12. An institution being accredited for this course shall have, within the vicinity (i.e. within a distance <3km) where practical exercises are conducted, the following:

   12.1. Separate ablution facilities for Male and Female candidates;

   12.2. Separate change rooms, equipped with at least two showers each, for male and female candidates;

   12.3. Appropriate rest area

13. For accreditation, the institution must demonstrate to the examiner that they have the following facilities and are able to perform all necessary exercises for the course;

   13.1. Have a classroom, hall, boardroom, or equivalent of sufficient capacity where the theoretical elements of the course will be presented;

   13.2. When making use of audio-visual material, the appropriate equipment should be available;
13.3. Have the ability to conduct all necessary practical demonstrations and exercises to complete the course, and the following shall be the minimum equipment required;

13.3.1. As a minimum, a fully functional, fully equipped 12-man (or higher) SOLAS type A life raft (could be a Certified Training Liferaft). The life raft must be housed/packed in the canister designed to house the life raft and must be inflated by pulling on the painter to activate the compressed air cylinder attached. A practical demonstration as mentioned above must be completed for every course run. The liferaft may not be inflated with a compressed air line from a compressor, for the purpose of demonstration of inflation.

13.3.2. All equipment found in a SOLAS Type A life raft. [could be dummy equipment]

13.3.3. A swimming pool, or access to a swimming pool for practical training with a platform of minimum height 3 metres from which candidates are to jump whilst wearing a life jacket. Minimum pool dimensions to be as follows:

   a. Depth of 2.5 metres so that candidates can safely jump into the pool from the 3.0 m platform and cannot stand when completing the practical training.

   b. Width of pool to be minimum 1.5 times the maximum width/length/diameter of the life raft used for practical training.

   c. Length of pool to be minimum 2.5 times the maximum width/length/diameter of the life raft used for practical training.

13.3.4. Should the pool water temperature be 18°C or less, then the training institution is to supply wet suit tops for all candidates with a minimum thickness of neoprene of 3 mm.

13.3.5. SOLAS type life jacket for each candidate.

13.3.6. SOLAS type Immersion suit, at a ratio of 4:1, or part thereof
13.3.7. An EPIRB - can be a non-operational EPIRB.

13.3.8. A SART - can be a non-operational SART.

13.3.9. Portable GMDSS VHF hand held radio non-operational.

13.4. When submitting an application for accreditation, the following must be supplied as a minimum;

13.4.1. Proof facilitators/instructors and/or assessors meet the requirements of paragraph 15 below,

13.4.2. Copy of any training material given to/used by the seafarers attending the course,

13.4.3. Time table showing time spent on each section of the training to demonstrate all subject matter covered and meeting the minimum duration of the course as stipulated in paragraph 7 above, the time-table should also stipulate how each section of the training shall be presented, i.e. lecture with slide presentation, educational video, practical demonstration, etc.

13.4.4. Copies of slide presentations, videos and practical demonstrations to be available for perusal by the relevant SAMSA Examiner accrediting the training.

13.4.5. Matrix/document cross referencing subject matter, in columns 1 & 2 of the competency table, required to be covered as per this SAMSA Code.

14. All documents presented as required by this section shall form part of the Quality Standards (Management) System of the institution. Changes and amendments to them shall be appropriately recorded, electronic media to include date stamps.

**Persons Conducting the Training and Assessment**

15. For this course to be accredited, the institution must have facilitators and/or assessor with the following minimum qualifications and/or experience;
15.1. Qualifications and Experience – as per table below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Experience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Able Seafarers – Deck or Engine</td>
<td>36 Months sea service as Able Seafarer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skipper Fishing ≥ 24 metres or higher</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer in Charge of Navigational and/or Engineering watch or higher</td>
<td>12 months Sea Service as an Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15.2. Alternative and/or equivalent qualifications may be accepted in lieu of the above qualifications with the concurrence of the relevant Senior Examiner and the Chief Examiner.

16. For this course to be accredited, the institution must, in addition to the facilitator/assessors, also have a Safety Assistant who is designated as a rescue swimmer and must be proficient in swimming.

**Institution’s library**

17. The Institution shall have, in addition to the course content, the latest editions of following reference material in hard copy or electronic format:\1

17.1. Merchant Shipping Act, 1951, as amended.


**Transitional arrangements**

18. These new SAMSA Code requirements shall come into force on the 01 July 2018

19. All accreditation for Refresher – Personal Survival Techniques shall cease to be valid 30 September 2018.

\1 Where reference material is electronic, means shall be provided for candidates to access such material
20. Facilitators and assessors who have been previously approved for this course, but who do not meet the above requirements may be permitted to carry on presenting the course. Such arrangements must be approved by the Senior Examiner as follows;

20.1. The institution which has, in its accreditation, a person holding a qualification not considered equivalent or higher than that mentioned in paragraph 15 above, shall apply in writing to the Senior Examiner for such facilitator and/or assessor to be considered to continue offering this course;

20.2. Applications referred to above shall be made within a three months period of this Code coming into effect.

20.3. Institutions who have recently, on or after 01 January 2012, developed their own swimming pool for Seafarer’s training purposes which does not meet the minimum specified dimensions shall comply with the requirements of this standard within 6 months from the effective date of this standard. The exception does not apply in the case of the jumping platform. A further extension may be granted in exceptional circumstances after motivation to the Chief Examiner.

21. Within three months of these requirements coming into force, institutions currently accredited for this course shall show compliance by submitting the following;

21.1. Statements of Qualifications and Experience of lectures, facilitators and/or assessors.

21.2. An inventory of the training equipment and/or tools, including library material, meeting the requirements of this standard.

21.3. Revised course content and related documents. These shall also be submitted to the nearest SAMSA Office for consideration and continued accreditation. This submission must be made within six months period from the effective date of this standard.

21.4. All information required to be submitted as set out in this Standard shall be sent to the Chief Examiner via e-mail to institutions@samsa.org.za
# Specification of minimum standard of competence in Personal Survival Techniques

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competence</th>
<th>Knowledge, understanding and proficiency</th>
<th>Methods for demonstrating competence</th>
<th>Criteria for evaluating competence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Survive at sea in the event of ship abandonment.</td>
<td>1.1. Types of emergency situations which may occur, such as collision, fire, foundering.</td>
<td>Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course or approved in-service experience and examination, including practical demonstration of competence to:</td>
<td>Action taken on identifying muster signals is appropriate to the indicated emergency and complies with established procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.2. Types of lifesaving appliances normally carried on ships.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The timing and sequence of individual actions are appropriate to the prevailing circumstance and conditions and minimize potential dangers and threats to survival.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.3. Equipment in survival craft.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Method of boarding survival craft is appropriate and avoids dangers to other survivors.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.4. Location of personal lifesaving appliances.</td>
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<td>Initial actions after leaving the ship and procedures and actions in water minimize threats to survival.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.5. Principles concerning survival, including:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.5.1. value of training and drills,</td>
<td>1. don a lifejacket,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.5.2. personal protective clothing and equipment,</td>
<td>2. don and use an immersion suit,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.5.3. need to be ready for any emergency,</td>
<td>3. safely jump from a height into the water,</td>
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<td>1.5.4. actions to be taken when called to survival craft stations,</td>
<td>4. right an inverted liferaft while wearing a lifejacket,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.5.5. actions to be taken when required to abandon ship,</td>
<td>5. swim while wearing a lifejacket,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.5.6. actions to be taken when in the water,</td>
<td>6. keep afloat without a lifejacket,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.5.7. actions to be taken when aboard a survival craft, and main dangers to survivors.</td>
<td>7. board a survival craft from the ship and water while wearing a lifejacket,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>8. take initial actions on boarding survival craft to enhance chance of survival,</td>
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<td>9. stream a drogue or sea-anchor,</td>
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<td>10. operate survival craft equipment,</td>
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<td>11. operate location devices, including radio equipment.</td>
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<td>12. Demonstrate the launching and inflating a liferaft</td>
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