Course Syllabus

Course Title:	**Stowaways, Migrants and Refugees at Sea**

Course Duration:	2.0 Hours
Course Difficulty:	Beginner
Course Category:	Compliance

Learning Outcomes

- Distinguish stowaway cases from rescue-at-sea cases to apply the correct procedure from the first minute of discovery
- Recognize the boundaries of shipboard authority relative to flag, port and coastal State responsibilities
- Apply stowaway-prevention and access-control measures matched to the vessel's trading risk profile
- Respond safely, promptly and correctly when a stowaway is discovered on board
- Maintain humane, non-discriminatory treatment and accurate documentation throughout a stowaway's time in the ship's custody
- Conduct or support a safe rescue operation for migrants and refugees in distress at sea, including immediate post-rescue care
- Communicate respectfully and effectively with affected persons, the company and coordinating authorities
- Plan disembarkation and close out a case with complete documentation and lawful handover

References:	FAL Convention, 1965 / UNCLOS, 1982	SOLAS, Chapter V / COLREG, Rule 5
	ISPS Code, Parts A and B / 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol	UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants / MLC, 2006
	IAMSAR Manual / IMO Resolution MSC.167(78)	IMO/UNHCR/ICS Rescue-at-Sea Guidance / Company SMS and Ship Security Plan

Course Subject	Time
Introduction • Course overview and navigation • The stowaway/rescue distinction that frames the whole course • How the knowledge checks and final examination work • The limits of crew authority - a theme repeated throughout	
Chapter 1 – Foundations: Definitions, Legal Status and the Regulatory Framework • Stowaway – Definition and Defining Characteristics • Migrant, Refugee and Asylum Seeker – Definitions and Distinctions • The Critical Operational Distinction – Stowaway vs. Person Rescued at Sea • IMO Instruments Relevant to Stowaways • SOLAS and UNCLOS – The Duty to Render Assistance • Refugee Law Framework and the Smuggling/Trafficking Distinction – Awareness Level • The Master's Responsibilities and Authority • Company, DPA, Flag State, Port State and Coastal State Roles • What Crew Members Must Not Do – Legal Determinations Are Not a Shipboard Task	0.25 Hour

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Course Subject	Time
Chapter 2 – Stowaway Prevention and Access Control • Stowaway Risk Assessment – Ports and Vessel Vulnerability • Gangway and Shore-Access Control • Restricted Area Management • Security Patrols and Watchkeeping • Physical Barriers, Seals and Rat Guards • Search Planning and the Search Plan Document • Systematic Compartment Search Procedure • Search Records and Coordination with Port Facility Security	0.25 Hour
Chapter 3 – Actions When a Stowaway Is Discovered • Safety and Initial Assessment of the Individual • Securing the Area, Notifying the Master and Initial Safe Custody • Interview Principles – Respectful, Non-Coercive Information Gathering • Identity Information to Record • Stowaway Declaration, Photographic and Documentary Evidence • Notifying the Company and DPA • Notifying Flag State, Port State and Next-Port Authorities • P&I Club Notification, Reporting Timelines and Formats	0.25 Hour
Chapter 4 – Humane Treatment, Safety, Security and Documentation • Dignity, Non-Discrimination and Welfare • Basic Needs – Food, Water, Shelter, Medical Care • Safe Accommodation Arrangements • Security Considerations – Proportionality and the Limits of Restraint • Health and Medical Monitoring • Contents of the Stowaway File • Deck Log and Official Log Book Entries • Confidentiality and Data-Protection Considerations	0.25 Hour
Chapter 5 – Rescue of Persons in Distress at Sea: Migrants and Refugees • The Duty to Render Assistance and Recognizing a Distress Situation • Rescue Planning and Resource Allocation • Search and Rescue Coordination – RCC/MRCC Liaison • Safe Recovery Procedures and Mass Rescue Operation Considerations • Vulnerable Groups – Children, Pregnant Women, Medical Emergencies • Triage and Medical Assessment • Shelter, Welfare and Basic Provisions Onboard • Record-Keeping and Distinguishing Rescued-Person Status from Stowaway Status	0.25 Hour
Chapter 6 – Communication, Disembarkation and Repatriation • Communicating with Rescued/Stowaway Persons – Language and Cultural Sensitivity • Communicating with Company, Authorities, the RCC and the Media • Identifying a Place of Safety and Appropriate Disembarkation Port • Coordination with Agents and Authorities for Disembarkation • Practical and Logistical Arrangements at Disembarkation • Repatriation Process for Stowaways • Handover to Immigration/Humanitarian Authorities for Rescued Persons • Post-Incident Review, Closing Documentation and File Retention	0.25 Hour

Course Final Assessment	**1.0 Hour**

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