

A paper (Ziarati, 2006) and report to IMO (MCA, 2006) clearly identify a major source of accidents particularly in the future to be the problems with application of automated systems and failures in any aspect of automation. STCW training standards for Engineers have not been updated to account for working with such new engines. Instrumentation and control systems including hydraulics and pneumatics need to be included in the syllabuses of the programmes for the Engineer and Deck officers. Under STCW there is no specific training requirement for electrical engineering officers on board vessels, and therefore no internationally or European agreed standard by which shipping companies can effectively assess their knowledge. The SURPASS project's main aim is to fill this gap created as the result of emergence and application of the automated systems in the education and training of seafarers by provision of a training course enabling them to have a full understanding of automated systems, and these systems' weaknesses and limitations.

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