

## **B11-O04**

### **THE NAUTICAL INSTITUTE'S WAY AHEAD IS ICE NAVIGATION TRAINING ASSURANCE**

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Throughout the maritime industry, there is a unanimous agreement that marine navigation in the Arctic waters requires bridge officers with specific skills and experience in ice navigation to ensure safe and successful voyage. Though a number of divergent regional and national guidelines and regulations exist, to date no global standard or definition for Ice Navigator exists. In 2010 The Nautical Institute formed the Ice Navigator Working Group to consolidate the many diverse regulatory and guidelines requirements into one standard and develop an accompanying training accreditation and certification training scheme. The final draft was presented at Arctic Circle 2013 in Reykjavik. Since that time IMO accelerated plans to put in place a mandatory Polar Code that in part would cover training and certification for mariners onboard vessels operating in Polar Regions. The Nautical Institute continued to refine its proposal for a global definition and training standard and has actively participated in ongoing discussions at IMO focused on putting in place a mandatory Polar Code for vessels operating in Polar Regions. At IMO's HTW 1 Sub Committee meeting in February 2014 a high level statement of requirement for the need to train bridge watchkeeping officers was agreed to for submission to MSC for the next stage of approval. However implementation of a mandatory Polar Code is still not expected till 2016, and even then may be delayed further to the right as many details are yet to be finalized, specifically actual training and experience Knowledge Understanding and Proficiency (KUP) requirements. The Nautical Institute presentation will provide a brief background and lead up to present situation with respect to formulating a global standard for Ice Navigators, the way ahead and the Nautical Institute's proposed methodology to ensure efficient and consistent training is conducted, verified and appropriate recognition and/or certification of appropriately skilled and trained officers is available.