



**REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA**  
**MINISTÉRIO DOS TRANSPORTES**  
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE INVESTIGAÇÃO E PREVENÇÃO DE ACIDENTES DE TRANSPORTES  
INIPAT

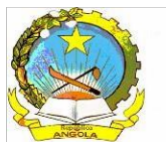
# **INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

## **ON**

### **QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**



INSTI003M/INIPAT/25



**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

**FOREWORD**

April 15, 2025

This Instruction constitutes a technical document designed to regulate the qualifications and training requirements of the Maritime Accident Investigator in force at the National Institute for Research and Prevention of Transport Accidents (INIPAT). This instruction was produced to assist and provide information on the qualifications and training requirements of the Marine Accident Investigator necessary for technical personnel working at INIPAT.

All personnel designated to carry out tasks within the scope of this instruction must comply with the qualifications and training requirements of the Maritime Accident Investigator contained therein, aiming to comply with the precepts of Angolan maritime legislation and the standards and practices of the International Maritime Organization Conventions on the matter. All other relevant employment documents related to these specific tasks and responsibilities will also be considered.

If there is any technical guide in conflict with this instruction, the INIPAT Management must be notified in writing, in order to make decisions deemed relevant on the matter. INIPAT's goal is to produce technical documents, which enhance the technical personnel used in the tasks of implementing the training, training and qualifications requirements of the Maritime Accident Investigator.

This instruction will be treated as a dynamic document subject to revisions, depending on amendments to Angolan maritime legislation and updates to the standards and practices recommended by the IMO on operational safety, with a particularity for the IMO Accident Investigation Code (MSC-255(84)) and the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) with the INIPAT Management being responsible for its regular updating.

Finally, it is important to highlight that all recipients and users of this instruction are invited to present ideas or proposals considered relevant to adapt and update this instruction.

**Approved by:**



**Luís António Solo**

**Director General of INIPAT**

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**INST**  
**I003M/INIPAT/25**  
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**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>01</b>	<b>FORWORD</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>RECORD OF REVISIONS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>04</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>PART A: GENERALITIES</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	3.01 Purpose.....	6
	3.03 Applicabilities .....	7
<b>06</b>	<b>PART B: INVESTIGATOR QUALIFICATIONS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
	3.005 General Investigator Qualifications .....	8
	3.007 Specific Investigator Qualifications.....	8
	3.009 Personal Attributes .....	10
<b>07</b>	<b>PART C: INVESTIGATOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
	3.011 Introduction .....	11
	3.013 Formal Education and Practical Training.....	11
	3.015 Formal Training for Marine Casualty Investigators .....	11
	3.017 Continuing Training .....	11
<b>08</b>	<b>PART D: THE FOUR PHASES OF INVESTIGATOR TRAINING</b> .....	<b>12</b>
	3.019 Phase 1: Initial Training (Indoctrination Course).....	12
	3.021 Phase 2: On-the-Job Training (OJT) .....	12
	3.023 Phase 3: Basic Casualty Investigation Course.....	12
	3.025 Phase 4: Advanced Accident Investigation Course .....	13
	3.027 Additional Training .....	13
	3.029 Training Outcomes .....	13
<b>09</b>	<b>PART E: INIPAT MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR CATEGORIES</b> .....	<b>14</b>
	3.031 Categorization .....	14
<b>10</b>	<b>PART F: RECORDING AND MAINTENANCE OF QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	3.033 Procedures .....	15



**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

**INTRODUCTION**

Considering the need to comply with IMO recommendations, in accordance with the provisions contained in its Conventions on operational safety, in particular the SOLAS and STCW Conventions and the Accident Investigation Code - Resolution MSC.255 (84), that Contracting States must establish qualifications and training requirements for the Maritime Accident Investigator.

Considering that Angolan maritime legislation establishes the obligation to establish training and qualification requirements for Maritime Accident Investigators in use at INIPAT.

The National Institute for Transport Accident Investigation and Prevention (INIPAT) determines the following:

**Article 1  
(Object)**

This Instruction aims to establish the policy of the Republic of Angola regarding the training requirements and qualifications of technical personnel used by INIPAT in the functions of maritime accident investigator.

**Article 2  
(Scope)**

This Instruction is mandatory for INIPAT maritime accident investigators to follow.

**Article 3  
(Procedures)**

In order to ensure compliance with the purposes of this Instruction, the following procedures must be observed:

**PART A: GENERAL**

**3.001 OBJECTIVE**

- (a) This Instruction aims to establish the requirements of the Republic of Angola regarding the training requirements and qualifications of Maritime Accident Investigators, in accordance with the standards and practices recommended by the IMO and the Angolan maritime legislation in force on the matter.
  - (1) For the purposes of this Instruction, it is considered:
  - (2) «Investigation Training Requirement» - Necessary condition for the training, training and maintenance of the Researcher's qualifications;
  - (3) «Maritime Accident Investigator Qualifications» - Specific preparation to enable a professional to carry out maritime accident investigation activities and assume certain related functions.





**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

**3.003 APPLICABILITY**

- (a) The provisions contained in this Instruction apply to the training, training and qualification procedures of technical personnel used by INIPAT in the functions of Maritime Accident Investigator in accordance with the standards and recommended practices of the IMO Accident Investigation Code.
- (b) This Instruction applies to all people used in maritime accident investigation and prevention activities at the National Institute for Transport Accident Research and Prevention (INIPAT).
- (c) The following are considered general qualifications of the maritime accident investigator:
  - (1) Maritime operations;
  - (2) Seaworthiness (engineering – ship or vessel engines, structures and systems);
  - (3) Maritime Traffic Control/Maritime Navigation Services;
  - (4) Human Performance;
  - (5) Meteorology;
  - (6) Survival Aspects.
- (d) For this Instruction, the training of INIPAT's maritime accident investigation technical personnel involves, among others, the following phases:
  - (1) Initial Training (indoctrination course);
  - (2) On-the-Job Training or Training (OJT);
  - (3) Basic Accident Investigation Course;
  - (4) Advanced Accident Investigation Courses.
- (e) The legislation applicable to this Instruction is based on the principles of the following legal provisions:
  - (1) Law on Merchant Marine, Ports and Related Activities of Angola;
  - (2) Presidential Decree that Creates and Approves the Organic Statute of INIPAT;
  - (3) INIPAT Internal Regulations;
  - (4) IMO SOLAS Convention;
  - (5) IMO STCW Convention;
  - (6) IMO Accident Investigation Code - MSC-255 (84);





**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

(7) Resolution A.1075(28).

**PART B: INVESTIGATOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**3.005 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE INVESTIGATOR**

- (a) Marine accident investigation is a specialized and complex task that requires the use of suitably qualified technical personnel in the various areas of marine accident investigation.
- (b) Although it has an Accident Investigation Officer dedicated exclusively to the investigation of accidents and incidents, INIPAT has a group of duly qualified investigators, who also receive training in accident investigation techniques before being assigned the role of accident investigator.
- (c) Potential accident investigators must have considerable practical experience in the maritime industry in the areas of maritime operations, seaworthiness, maritime traffic management and maritime and port infrastructure.

**3.007 SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS OF THE INVESTIGATOR**

- (a) Taking into account that the outcome of a maritime accident investigation depends greatly on the knowledge, skills and abilities of investigators in the field of maritime sciences, candidates for maritime accident investigators, to be hired or used by INIPAT, must possess the following minimum qualifications:

**3.07.1 Maritime Operations**

- (a) Holder of a certificate for the exercise of functions and responsibilities relating to navigation, including watchkeeping with a maritime instrument rating or sailor with a minimum experience of five (5) years.
- (b) A minimum of fifty thousand (50.000) nautical miles as captain/master/seafarer, including twenty five thousand (25.000) nautical miles in multi-engine ships or crafts.
- (c) Demonstration of knowledge of maritime operations, ship or vessel dispatch, port requirements, ship or commercial vessel maintenance practices and procedures, and maritime accident investigation practices, techniques and procedures.
- (d) Ability to prepare comprehensive and detailed reports.
- (e) Ability to assume the main maritime accident investigation duties listed in subpoint F of point 3.3.0.1 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident and Incident Investigation Manual.

**3.07.2 Navigability (Engineering)**

- (a) Higher education at an accredited university or college in marine engineering.



**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

- (b) Demonstration of knowledge about ship or vessel engines, their associated systems, qualification in ships or turbine vessels, standards and practices for manufacturing and/or maintenance of ships or vessels, design of marine structures, structural mechanics, properties of various materials used in the construction of ships or vessels, engineering aspects of electrical, hydraulic, mechanical, pneumatic or electronic systems and marine accident investigation practices, techniques and procedures.
- (c) Ability to prepare comprehensive and detailed reports.
- (d) Ability to assume the main maritime accident investigation duties listed in subpoint D of point 3.3.0.2 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident and Incident Investigation Manual.

**3.07.3 Maritime Traffic Control Services (Maritime Navigation)**

- (a) Experience/qualification as a maritime traffic controller in the last 6 years in a military or civil maritime traffic installation, which has involved the separation and control of air traffic or the provision of advisory services to ship or vessel owners before and during sea travel or in ports.
- (b) Demonstration of knowledge of maritime traffic control regulations, practices and procedures and marine accident investigation practices, techniques and procedures.
- (c) Ability to prepare comprehensive and detailed technical reports.
- (d) Ability to assume the main maritime accident investigation duties listed in subpoint D of point 3.3.0.3 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident and Incident Investigation Manual.

**3.07.4 Human Performance**

- (a) For a position as a Human Factors Researcher, training at an institution dedicated to studies in the area of human factors or knowledge and understanding equivalent to this training.
- (b) For a position as a Marine Psychologist (Maritime), training at a certified educational institution, with a degree in psychology.
- (c) Specialized professional experience in the area or directly related to the responsibilities of the human performance position.
- (d) Demonstration of knowledge of practices in the maritime industry, such as shipping companies, maritime traffic control and manufacturers of ships or vessels and their components and current issues on human factors in merchant shipping.
- (e) Ability to prepare comprehensive and detailed technical reports.
- (f) Ability to assume the main maritime accident investigation duties listed in subpoint F of point 3.3.0.4 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident and Incident Investigation Manual.



**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

**3.07.5 Meteorology**

- (g) Training at a certified educational institution in meteorology, atmospheric sciences or other important natural sciences.
- (h) Professional experience specialized in or directly related to the responsibilities of the meteorologist position that has equipped the candidate with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position.
- (a) Demonstration of knowledge of weather forecasting in the merchant marine, including the collection, interpretation and dissemination of meteorological information, weather hazards in the merchant marine and dispatch of ships or vessels, port requirements and maritime traffic control practices and procedures.
- (b) Ability to write comprehensive and detailed technical reports.
- (c) Ability to undertake the main maritime accident investigation duties listed in subpoint E of point 3.3.0.5 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident and Incident Investigation Manual.

**3.07.6 Survival Aspects**

- (a) For a position as a Survival Aspects Investigator, training at an institution dedicated to studies in the area of survival factors or knowledge and understanding equivalent to this training.
- (b) Specialized professional experience in the area of or directly related to the responsibilities of the position of survival aspects, which has equipped the candidate with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the functions of the position.
- (c) Demonstration of knowledge on survival issues for occupants of ships or vessels, factors of resistance of ships or vessels to accidents and shock resistance and survival standards in the maritime industry.
- (d) Ability to write comprehensive and detailed technical reports.
- (e) Ability to assume the main maritime accident investigation duties listed in subpoint E of point 3.3.0.6 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident and Incident Investigation Manual.

**3.009 PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES**

- (a) In addition to the above qualifications, accident investigators in use at INIPAT must possess certain personal attributes such as integrity and impartiality in recording facts, logic and perseverance in pursuing investigations, often under difficult conditions, and tact in dealing with many people involved in the traumatic experience of a maritime accident.



**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

**PART C: INVESTIGATOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

**3.011 INTRODUCTION**

- (a) Maritime accident investigators require different levels of experience, knowledge and training according to the specific role assigned to them, so they must receive training commensurate with their responsibilities as accident investigator, investigation group coordinators, Investigator in Charge (IE), accredited representative, advisor or expert/specialist.
- (b) The training guidelines and the course program must be aligned in such a way that investigators receive training that allows them to effectively and efficiently perform any role assigned to them by the National Institute for Research and Prevention of Transport Accidents (INIPAT).

**3.013 FORMAL TRAINING AND PRACTICAL TRAINING**

- (a) INIPAT shall provide its maritime accident investigation staff with formal training involving several phases, which shall include initial training, on-the-job training (OJT), a basic accident investigation course and an advanced accident investigation course complemented by specialized follow-up courses.
- (b) Although practical on-the-job training is an ongoing process that continues over many years, there must be sufficient time gaps between each formal course to allow researchers to integrate the information and techniques learned.

**3.015 FORMAL TRAINING OF MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATORS**

- (a) Formal courses, whether basic or advanced, are designed to complement on-the-job training and practical training by exposing trainee researchers to a cadre of experienced specialists (experts), who can convey the details of their specialties to their students.
- (b) Experts (experienced investigators) are normally recruited from those with experience in a particular area of accident investigation in matters of experience in investigations, operations, marine medicine, psychology, marine engineering and manufacturers' representatives.
- (c) Formal maritime accident investigator courses are structured and taught in specific training centers, universities, manufacturers, military establishments, other accident investigation authorities and other educational institutions.
- (d) INIPAT must identify institutions that offer appropriate training courses in maritime accident investigation.

**3.017 CONTINUOUS TRAINING**

- (a) On an annual basis, INIPAT will develop and finance an annual training plan designed to provide





**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

training to currently available researchers and new researchers in place during the following year.

- (b) This plan must take into account the training requirements for researchers that are specified in Part D of this Instruction.
- (c) The Maritime Accident Investigation Department (DIAM) in coordination with INIPAT's human resources area must maintain written records and personal files of the training and training that each investigator successfully completes.

**PART D: THE FOUR PHASES OF INVESTIGATOR TRAINING**

**3.019 PHASE 1: INITIAL TRAINING (INDOCTRINATION COURSE)**

- (a) The purpose of initial training or indoctrination is to familiarize new researchers with Angolan and related international laws and regulations, including related INIPAT procedures and requirements.
- (b) The curriculum of the initial training course (indoctrination course) must include, among others, matters related to administrative provisions, initial response procedures and investigation procedures, details of which are set out in point 3.5.1 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident Investigation Manual.

**3.021 PHASE 2: WORKPLACE TRAINING OR TRAINING (OJT)**

- (a) After initial training, the National Institute for Transport Accident Investigation and Prevention (INIPAT) must provide on-the-job training for a new investigator.
- (b) During this second phase, the new investigator practices the procedures and tasks covered in initial training and becomes familiar with investigative techniques.
- (c) This training will also familiarize you with the tasks of investigation at the accident site, the collection and analysis of factual information and the preparation of the final report.
- (d) The conduct of this training (OJT) often involves more than one experienced investigator and should not be limited to investigations within Angola, i.e. INIPAT may provide the opportunity to participate, as a trainee or observer, in an investigation conducted by another accident investigation authority.

**3.023 PHASE 3: BASIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COURSE**

- (a) In the first year after completion of initial familiarization training (Phase 1), accident investigators must attend a basic accident investigation course, where issues related to the responsibilities of the States involved as defined in IMO standards and recommended practices and accident site considerations as specified in subpoint A of point 3.5.3 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident Investigation Manual must be addressed.
- (b) In the curriculum of the Basic Accident Investigation Course, additional information related to the objective of the basic course, the need for investigators to undergo the basic course held in Angola



**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

or abroad and the choice of institutions duly recognized by the IMO must be considered, including the analysis of their pedagogical contents, as specified in subpoint B of point 3.5.3 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident Investigation Manual.

**3.025 PHASE 4: ADVANCED ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COURSE**

- (a) As trained investigators gain experience, INIPAT will ensure their enrollment in advanced accident investigation courses, where they can update their knowledge of basic techniques and increase their knowledge in special areas relevant to accident investigation.
- (b) After one year of completing the basic investigation course and having carried out at least two accident investigations as Chief Investigator (IR), INIPAT investigators will be able to attend the Advanced Maritime Accident Investigation Course to be taught by INIPAT Senior Investigators or external ones, covering the topics listed in subpoint B of point 3.5.4 of the Maritime Accident Investigation Manual of the INIPAT.

**3.027 ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

- (a) Taking into account that investigators can investigate accidents on different ships or vessels, it is necessary that investigators have technical knowledge of the characteristics of aircraft and the main technologies on board.
- (b) The National Institute for Transport Accident Investigation (INIPAT) will ensure that some of its investigators attend ship or vessel type qualification courses, designated on an equitable basis, on the most common types of ships or vessels operated in Angola, taking into account the qualifications of the same (investigators), as specified in subpoint B of point 3.5.5 of the INIPAT Maritime Accident Investigation Manual.
- (c) Other additional training may be obtained by sending INIPAT investigators to conferences and seminars held by maritime accident investigation organizations, such as MAIIF (Maritime Accident and Incident Investigation Forum), by experienced investigators and participating as observers in investigations conducted by maritime accident investigation authorities of other States, as specified in subpoint C of point 3.5.5 of the INIPAT Marine Accident Investigation Manual.

**3.029 TRAINING RESULTS**

- (a) The final results of the four phases of the training program for maritime accident investigators at the National Institute for Transport Accident Investigation and Prevention (INIPAT) are as follows:
  - (1) Understanding the depth of the investigation required in accordance with Angolan maritime legislation on the matter;
  - (2) Knowledge of maritime accident investigation techniques;



**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

- (3) Ability to obtain and manage relevant technical assistance and resources necessary to support an investigation;
- (4) Ability to collect, document and preserve evidence;
- (5) Ability to identify and analyze relevant evidence to determine contributing factors and probable cause and issue operational safety recommendations;
- (6) Ability to write a final report that meets the requirements of INIPAT as the maritime accident investigation authority conducting the investigation on behalf of the Republic of Angola.

**PART E: CATEGORIES OF INIPAT MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATORS**

**3.031 CATEGORIZATION**

- (a) There is a need to organize the actions of investigators in the various activities carried out by INIPAT and establish a categorization of their responsibilities, maritime accident investigators are classified into six (6) levels of categories, namely: Assistant Marine Accident Investigator, 3rd Class Marine Accident Investigator, 2nd Class Marine Accident Investigator, 1st Class Marine Accident Investigator, Marine Accident Investigator Supervisor and Senior Marine Accident Investigator.

**3.31.1 ASSISTANT MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

- (a) After successfully completing the Basic Marine Accident Investigation Course and the Complementary Course to Basic Training, the professional receives the title of Assistant Marine Accident Investigator, being qualified to carry out initial actions at accident sites, carry out non-complex investigations and participate as a member of complex investigation committees.

**3.31.2 MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR 3RD CLASS**

- (a) After completing the Basic Marine Accident Investigation Course and the Complementary Course to Basic Training, the Assistant Marine Accident Investigator must undertake practical training (OJT) for a period in which he will be formally evaluated. Obtaining a minimum rating of "Very Good" after 3 years of service or "Good" after 5 years, you will be able to take the Advanced Maritime Accident Investigation Course. Upon completion and upon approval of this course, the researcher will be able to ascend to this category, with all the inherent prerogatives and responsibilities.

**3.31.3 MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR 2ND CLASS**

- (a) After a period of 3 years of service with a minimum rating of "Very Good" or 5 years with a rating of "Good" and having participated as a member of the commission of a maritime accident investigation, the 3rd Class Marine Accident Investigator will be able to ascend to this category, with all the inherent prerogatives and responsibilities.





**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

**5.031.4 MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR 1ST CLASS**

- (a) After a period of 3 years of service with a minimum rating of “Very Good” or 5 years with a rating of “Good”, and having participated as the Lead Investigator in a maritime accident investigation, the 2nd Class Marine Accident Investigator will be able to ascend to this category, with all the inherent prerogatives and responsibilities.

**3.31.5 MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR SUPERVISOR**

- (a) After a period of 3 years of service with a minimum rating of “Very Good” or 5 years with a rating of “Good”, and having participated as the Lead Investigator in a complex maritime accident investigation, the 1st Class Marine Accident Investigator will be able to ascend to this category, with all the inherent prerogatives and responsibilities.

**3.31.6 SENIOR MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

- (a) After a period of 3 years of service with a minimum rating of “Good”, the Marine Accident Investigator Supervisor will be able to ascend to this category, with all the inherent prerogatives and responsibilities.

**PART F: REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

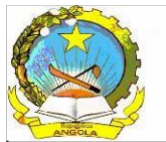
**3,033 PROCEDURES**

**3.33.1 REGISTRATION**

- (a) Upon successful completion by the maritime accident investigator of a training course or on-the-job training (OJT), the Department of Maritime Accident Investigation (DIAM) must make the appropriate records in digital and printed format of the respective certificates;
- (b) Information on their individual qualifications must be added to the digital and printed files of the results obtained by maritime accident investigators in training and training activities in a personalized manner;
- (c) Copies of the records in reference must also be sent to the Department of Prevention, Studies and Information Technology (DPETI) for inclusion in the database and on the INIPAT website;
- (d) Additionally, copies of the records in question must also be forwarded to INIPAT's human resources management area for the purposes of necessary institutional administrative control.

**3.33.2 UPDATE**

- (a) It is an institutional duty of the Department of Maritime Accident Investigation and the Department of Prevention, Studies and Information Technology to update the information contained in records on the qualifications, education and training of maritime accident investigators.



**INSTRUCTIVE Nº I003M/INIPAT/25**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR**

**3.33.3 MAINTENANCE**

- (a) Records of the qualifications, education and training of maritime accident investigators must be maintained in digital and physical files (file folders) in a personalized manner under the responsibility of the Deputy General Director for the Technical Area and the Head of the Maritime Accident Investigation Department;
- (b) The records in reference must be maintained during the time of the Researcher's duties at INIPAT and for ten (10) years after leaving INIPAT.

**Article 4  
(Final Provisions)**

- 1. Cases not provided for in this Instruction will be resolved by the Management of the National Institute for Research and Prevention of Transport Accidents (INIPAT).
- 2. This Instruction cancels any INIPAT document on the qualifications and training requirements of the Maritime Accident Investigator and comes into force immediately.

**Get Published**

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