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CULTURAL COMPONENTS SEAFARER

The global seafarer of today and tomorrow must exhibit the flexibility to adapt behaviors for each new cultural situation faced through knowledge and mindfulness. Increasing one's skills in these components of culture intelligence will make the seafarer more effective in the global maritime environment.

Cultural components (CC) is an aggregate, multidimensional construct, consisting of a cognitive, Metacognitive, behavioral and motivational component.

The four dimensions are qualitatively different facets of the overall capability to function and manage effectively in culturally diverse settings. It is Metacognitive CQ, Cognitive CQ, Behavioral CQ and Motivational CQ. The dimensions may or may not correlate with each other; for example, a seafarer may be knowledgeable of a culture, but may lack the ability to act upon this knowledge. Thus, cognitive CQ, metacognitive CQ, behavioral CQ and motivational CQ are different capabilities that together form overall CQ. All CC increase the effectiveness with which seafarers adapt in intercultural maritime settings.

Cognitive CQ. Seafarers high in cognitive cultural intelligence have developed a thorough understanding of the norms, practices and conventions common to different cultures through their education and personal experiences. They understand political and economic systems, institutions and cultural values and have advanced cognitive categorization schemes through which they can recognize similarities and differences across cultures.

Metacognitive CQ. Metacognitive CQ includes the mental processes seafarers use to acquire and understand cultural knowledge, including knowledge of and control over individual thought processes relating to culture. Seamen high in metacognitive CQ have advanced information acquisition skills and are consciously aware of others cultural preferences before and during interactions. They question cultural assumptions and adjust their mental models during and after interactions. They not only understand the processes through which they can enhance their cultural understanding, but also the means through which this understanding should be applied during interactions.

Behavioral CQ. Behavioral CQ reflects the capability to exhibit appropriate verbal and non-verbal actions when interacting with people from different cultures. Seafarers high in behavioral CQ are based on their broad range of communication capabilities, such as exhibiting culturally appropriate words, tone, gestures and facial expressions. These capabilities provide the means through which cognitive and metacognitive knowledge of culture can be applied.

Motivational CQ. Motivational CQ refers to the level of attention and energy a seafarer directs toward learning about and functioning in situations characterized by cultural differences.