

Heidi Drygas  
Commissioner

[www.labor.alaska.gov](http://www.labor.alaska.gov)



P.O. Box 111149  
Juneau, AK 99811-1149  
907.465.2700  
[commissioner.labor@alaska.gov](mailto:commissioner.labor@alaska.gov)

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

June 14, 2017

No. 17-28

For more information: Captain Terry Federer, AMTC Department Head  
907-224-6195, [Terry.Federer@avtec.edu](mailto:Terry.Federer@avtec.edu)

### **New Polar Code Compliant Courses Offered at AVTEC**

SEWARD, Alaska— The Alaska Maritime Training Center (AMTC) at AVTEC, the state's post-secondary career and technical education institution located in Seward, has recently completed curriculum development for two new maritime ice navigation courses that meet new International Maritime Organization Polar Code training requirements. The United States has recently adopted these requirements into regulation making this training mandatory for mariners serving in polar waters.

The courses, called Basic Training for Polar Operations and Advanced Training for Polar Operations, are required by July 1, 2018 for shipboard deck officers working on ships operating in polar waters. Total length of the two courses combined is two weeks. AVTEC will begin offering these courses starting July 10, 2017. High demand for these courses is anticipated, especially as the July 2018 deadline date nears.

"The mission of the Alaska Maritime Training Center at AVTEC is to train mariners for Alaska's challenging maritime environment, including the Arctic," said Labor Commissioner Heidi Drygas. "AVTEC is currently the only institution in the United States offering these Polar Code compliant courses."

Mariners interested in applying for these courses may do so online at [www.avtec.edu](http://www.avtec.edu) or by contacting the AVTEC Alaska Maritime Training Center admissions office at 907-224-6196.

###