



CIRCULAR MCO – 008/2017

DATE: June 9, 2017
FROM: MCO HEAD OFFICE – TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
TO: ALL SURVEYORS

SUBJECT: *STCW MANILA AMENDMENT AND MSM NEW FORMAT UNDER TOGO FLAG*

Dear Sir(s):

APPLICABLE TO:

All ships engaged in international voyages;
Other ships and pleasure yachts of 500 GT and over;
And all commercial yachts of 24 meters and over.

1. General Info:

The STCW Convention was amended in 2010. As a result it establishes new grades. The aims of this revision are to ensure that STCW standards remain relevant, to improve the standards of professionalism of seafarers and to improve navigational safety, security and protection of marine environment.

The newly established grades are as follows:

- “Able Seafarer Deck” (STCW Reg. II/5),
- “Able Seafarer Engine” (STCW Reg. III/5)
- “Electro-Technical Officer” (STCW Reg. III/6), and
- “Electro-Technical Rating” (STCW Reg. III/7),

All seafarers working on board Togolese vessels should be trained or certified as competent or otherwise qualified to perform their duties.

It has been noted that some Administrations have not adopted the regulations to issue a Certificate of Proficiencies for the Able Seafarer Deck and for the Able Seafarer Engine. In this respect, the Ship owners, Ship Operators, Managing Companies may find difficulties in employing sufficient Able Seafarers Deck and Able Seafarers Engine.

MSC 97 has discussed the deadline problems, given that a number of Administrations may not be in a position to issue STCW certificates in accordance with the requirement of the Convention by 1st January 2017.

IMO Maritime Safety Committee has issued MSC.1/Circ. 1560 concerning the implementation of the STCW Convention which is annexed to this Circular. IMO Maritime Safety Committee

agreed that, in cases where a seafarer's documentation complies with the requirements in force immediately before 1st January 2017, but is not in accordance with the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, port State control authorities, until 1st July 2017, are recommended to take a pragmatic and practical approach during inspections and to notify the ships, seafarers and Administrations concerned accordingly.

In view of the above, this Administration requires all seafarers to comply as soon as possible with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and at the latest by 1st July 2017.

2. Minimum Safe Manning Certificates (MSM Certificates) issued to vessels before 1st June 2017

Minimum Safe Manning Certificates (MSM Certificates) issued to vessels before 1st June 2017 will remain valid until 1st July 2017 i.e. they do not have to be changed due to the introduction of the new grades in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention.

The existing MSM Documents should be replaced with the amended MSM Documents by 1st July 2017. The replacement process should not cause any delay to the vessel's operations. In accordance with regulation (STCW Reg. II/5) paragraph 2.3 of the Convention as amended, the holder of a valid Certificate of Proficiency as Able Seafarer Deck (STCW Reg. II/5) can take the position of Rating forming part of a navigational watch (STCW Reg. II/4) indicated in the MSM Certificate.

In accordance with regulation (STCW Reg. III/5) paragraph 2.3 of the Convention as amended, the holder of a valid certificate of proficiency as Able Seafarer Engine in a manned engine room or designated to perform duties in a periodically unmanned engine room (STCW Reg. III/5) can take the position of Rating forming part of an engineering watch (STCW Reg. III/4) indicated in the MSM Certificates.

3. New MSM Certificates which will be issued after 1st July 2016

This Administration has established a new form of MSM certificate annexed to this Circular in order to effect the changes mentioned in paragraph 1 above. It will be applicable for new coming vessels as from 1st July 2017.

Minimum Safe Manning Certificates issued to existing vessels before 1st JUNE 2017 should be changed before 1st July 2017 in order to reflect the changes mentioned in paragraph 1 above. It should be issued to existing vessels at the owner's request.

A copy of the latest MSM Certificate along with the Application Form should be submitted. When a revised MSM Certificate is issued, the existing Certificate should be returned to this Administration for Cancellation.

Port State Control Officers are reminded to take note of MSC.1/Circ.1560 and of this Circular and to accept MSM Certificates issued before 1st June 2017 while the transitional measures are implemented and all vessels have a revised MSM Certificate on board as per paragraph 1 above by 1st July 2017.

4. Information to Recognized Organizations (ROs) regarding the Implementation of the STCW Convention

In accordance with MSC.1/Circ. 1560, this Administration informs ROs issuing ISM Code certificates under SOLAS 74 that, until 1st July 2017, if a seafarer's documentation is not in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, the Recognized Organization (RO) should inform this Administration and take necessary Measures to rectify this

non-compliance with the cooperation of Owners/ Managers /Master assessing Compliance with the provisions of the ISM Code.

ANNEXES:

- New MSM Certificate (Form)
- Application for the issue, change or renewal of a MSM Certificate (Form)
- MSC.1/Circ. 1560
- New MSM Scale.

Kindly notify Masters, Ship owners and all concerned parties.

Kindest Regards

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