MARINE CIRCULAR
MC-4/2016/1

11/2016

FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Classification Societies

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE MINIMUM SAFE MANNING CERTIFICATE

DEFINITIONS:
The following abbreviations stand for:

- “COC” – A Certificate of Competence which is issued in compliance with the provisions of the STCW Convention
- “COE” – Certificate of Endorsement issued in recognition of a STCW Certificate issued by a country on the IMO “White List”
- “ETO” – Electro-Technical Officer
- “ETR” – Electro-Technical Rating
- “MSMC” – Minimum Safe Manning Certificate
- “PSC” – Port State Control

The term “Administration” shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this marine circular is to inform ship owners / operators of the latest changes that the Administration will be rolling out for the MSMC in view of the STCW 2010 Manila amendments coming into full effect on 1 January 2017.

REFERENCES:
(a) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-2/2006/07/09/10/12/5

APPLICATION:
This marine circular applies to all Tuvalu flagged vessels holding a Tuvalu MSMC.

CONTENTS:
1. General

1.1. The Manila amendments to the STCW Convention and Code were adopted on 25 June 2010 and entered into force on 1 January 2012. A 5 year transitional arrangement was provided up till 1 January 2017 for full implementation of 2010 Manila Amendments.

1.2. The provisions on the certification requirements for the new grades of Able Seafarer Deck and Able Seafarer Engine are applicable from 1 January 2017, thereafter requiring all seafarers to comply with the mandatory minimum requirements for able seafarer in accordance with the STCW Chapter II Regulation II/5 for Able Seafarer Deck and Chapter III Regulation III/5 for Able
Seafarer Engine. This change shall be reflected in new MSMC’s issued by this Administration after 1 January 2017.

1.3. Similarly, new competency standards and certification for ETO and ETR have been provided in the new provisions as stipulated in STCW Chapter III Regulation III/6 and III/7 respectively. All ETOs and ETRs shall be certificated according to para 1.2 above before they are allowed to serve on board Tuvalu-flagged vessels from 1 January 2017.

1.4. ETOs holding a COC issued by another administration will be required to apply for a Tuvalu COE prior to working on board a Tuvalu-flagged vessel.

1.5. ETOs and ETRs are not reflected on the MSMCs issued by this Administration as they are not mandatorily required in the minimum safe manning requirements (refer to reference (a) for Tuvalu’s Minimum Safe Manning Scale).

2. Implementation of the changes on the MSMC format

2.1. For new vessels registered after 1 January 2017, the MSMCs issued by this Administration shall reflect the changes mentioned in para 1.2 above.

2.2. For existing vessels, the Administration shall replace the MSMCs during the annual renewal of the vessels after 1 January 2017. Based on this schedule of replacement, all Tuvalu-flagged vessels holding a MSMC shall have their MSMC replaced by 31 December 2017. The replacement process should not cause any delay to the vessel’s operations.

2.3. This Administration recommends that ship owners / operators place a copy of this marine circular on board to inform PSC authorities that all existing MSMCs held by Tuvalu-flagged vessels shall remain valid while the transitional measures are implemented to have all Tuvalu-flagged vessels hold the MSMC with the latest changes (as per para 1.2 above) by 31 December 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry