



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 158

Carriage, Training and Certification of Electro-Technical Officer and or Electro-Technical Rating

**Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations,
Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers and
Masters, Seafarers, duly authorised Manning Agents, Seafarers
Recruitment & Placement Service Providers and Training Providers**

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978 as amended (STCW), the associated Code (STCW Code), Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) and International Maritime Organisation (IMO) *Resolution A.891(21)*, as superseded by *A.1079(28)*, require all persons to be trained, instructed or certificated for their assigned shipboard tasks and for the ship on which they are sailing.
- 1.2 Further, Section 67 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1976, Regulation V/14.1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended (SOLAS) and Regulation 2.7 of MLC 2006 require every ship to be manned sufficiently and efficiently taking into consideration the international guidelines as contained in *IMO Resolutions A.1047(27) and A. 1079(28)*.
- 1.3 This Bulletin provides guidance on the carriage and certification requirements for an Electro-Technical Officer (ETO) and or Electro-Technical Rating (ETR) on board Bahamian ships.
- 1.4 The Bulletin should be read in conjunction with any other BMA Information Bulletins relating to training and certification of seafarers.

2 Application

2.1 This Bulletin applies to:

- (i) All Bahamian ships with the exception of fishing vessels and non-commercial yachts;
- (ii) All persons serving, or intending to serve, on Bahamian ships where ETO or ETR training and certification is required in accordance with STCW;
- (iii) Companies employing, recruiting or selecting the seafarers noted above for service on board applicable Bahamian ships.

2.2 For the purpose of this Bulletin, the following definitions apply:

- (i) *Company* is the entity that has accepted responsibility for the effective manning of, and the assignment of seafarers for service on board, Bahamian ships in accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/14;
- (ii) *Approved training or instruction* means training or instruction that satisfies the requirements specified in appropriate STCW Regulation or STCW Code. For ETO, the training or instruction should be approved by either The Bahamas or a STCW Party recognised by the BMA (www.bahamasmaritime.com). For ETR, the training or instruction should be approved by a country that is party to the STCW as contained in *IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1163 as amended*

3 Manning

3.1 There is no mandatory requirement for a ship to carry an ETO or ETR.

3.2 The determination of whether to have on board a person(s), other than an STCW Engineer Officer, to operate and maintain the shipboard electrical, electronic and control equipment/systems, shall be based on the manning assessment conducted by the Company in accordance with the international guidelines.

3.3 Where the assessment determines that to safely operate the ship, a person (s) other than an STCW Engineer Officer is required, the Company should then determine whether the person will be assigned duties/tasks at an operational (ETO) or support (ETR) level. This person(s) should be recorded on the Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD) application.

- 3.4 The BMA will review the Company's proposed manning in order to be satisfied that the manning level shall meet the intended objectives.

4 Training and Certification

- 4.1 Any persons specifically assigned duties, responsibilities and tasks relating to the operation and maintenance of the shipboard electrical, electronic and control equipment and systems shall be duly certificated as a ETO or ETR and satisfy the training requirements of STCW Regulations III/6 or III/7 respectively.
- 4.2 If the person is certificated as an ETO, a Bahamas Flag State Endorsement (FSE) will be required and an application shall be submitted in line with the guidance contained in BMA Information Bulletin No. 108. The BMA will only issue a FSE for an ETO Certificate of Competency that has been issued by a country recognised by the Bahamas (see *BMA Information Bulletin No. 121*).
- 4.3 All parties should note that, in accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/10.5, the BMA will issue a written confirmation of receipt of application (CRA) as documentary proof that an application has been received for an ETO FSE.
- 4.4 For Electro-Technical Rating, the BMA will accept an STCW Certificate of Proficiency that has been issued by a country that is party to the STCW as contained in *IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1163 as amended*. A Bahamas FSE is not required for a ETR.
- 4.5 In accordance with the 2010 amendments to the STCW, ETO and ETR certification is not required until 01 January 2017. However, in order to avoid any delays, the BMA urges all parties to liaise with the seafarer's national Administration to ascertain the process and requirements for obtaining a national STCW certificate to serve in the capacity of an ETO or ETR.

5 Responsibilities of the Company and Master

- 5.1 For the purpose of these requirements, the master is deemed the person with the responsibility for the ship under Section 5 of the ISM Code. Where the ISM Code is not applicable, the Master is the person in command of the vessel.

- 5.2 In accordance with STCW Regulation I/14, the Company is responsible for ensuring that the ship is manned in compliance with the MSMD by properly trained, qualified, certificated and medically fit seafarers.
- 5.3 The Company must verify the validity and authenticity of certificates and documents for seafarer serving as ETO or ETR. This responsibility remains with the Company, irrespective of the use of recruitment and placement (manning/crewing) agents to arrange the placement of seafarers on board ships.
- 5.4 The Company must verify that any seafarer serving as ETO or ETR assigned to the vessel have the required valid certification, including applicable flag state endorsements, and are suitably trained to undertake their intended duties, including the operation of shipboard equipment.
- 5.5 The Company and the master shall ensure that any seafarer serving as ETO or ETR, prior to undertaking their assigned shipboard duties, have valid original certificates to undertake their assigned tasks.

6 Responsibilities of the Seafarer

- 6.1 The seafarer serving as ETO or ETR shall ensure that they have on board the appropriate original documentary evidence of their training and qualification for their assigned role.
- 6.2 All seafarers shall ensure that they have a valid medical fitness certificate.

7 Enquiries

- 7.1 Any queries related to the training requirements can be directed to the BMA's Seafarers & Manning Department at stcw@bahamasmaritime.com.

8 Revision History

Rev.0 (26 November 2015) – First issue