

**St. Kitts & Nevis
International Ship
Registry**

*Flying the flag of the
Federation worldwide.*



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Maritime Circular to Maritime Registrars, Shipowners, Masters, Managers & Operators of St. Kitts & Nevis Ships, Classification Societies, Recognised Organisations, Recognised Security Organisations, Surveyors of Ships & Flag State Inspectors to this Administration, Seafarers & IMO Member States

Maritime Circular No. MC/21/09

DATE: 1st August 2009

DISPENSATIONS FOR SEAFARERS TO SAIL IN ANOTHER RANK

The STCW Convention, Article VIII – parts 1 & 2 - states as follows regarding the above;

Dispensation

(1) In circumstances of exceptional necessity, Administrations, if in their opinion this does not cause danger to persons, property or the environment, may issue a dispensation permitting a specified seafarer to serve in a specified ship for a specified period not exceeding six months in a capacity, other than that of the radio officer or radiotelephone operator, except as provided by the relevant Radio Regulations, for which he does not hold the appropriate certificate, provided that the person to whom the dispensation is issued shall be adequately qualified to fill the vacant post in a safe manner, to the satisfaction of the Administration. However, dispensations shall not be granted to a Master or Chief Engineer Officer except in circumstances of force majeure and then only for the shortest possible period.

(2) Any dispensation granted for a post shall be granted only to a person properly certificated to fill the post immediately below. Where certification of the post below is not required by the Convention, a dispensation may be issued to a person whose qualification and experience are, in the opinion of the Administration, of a clear equivalence to the requirements for the post to be filled, provided that, if such a person holds no appropriate certificate, he shall be required to pass a test accepted by the Administration as demonstrating that such a dispensation may safely be issued. In addition, Administrations shall ensure that the post in question is filled by the holder of an appropriate certificate as soon as possible.

This Administration is prepared to consider a request for a dispensation. However, the seafarer for whom the dispensation is requested **MUST** be in possession of a valid Certificate of Competency or Certificate of Endorsement issued by us for the rank below that in which he will serve and **MUST** have served in that lower rank for at least 6 months on a ship of a similar size and type to that for which the dispensation is requested. In the case of a tanker, he must hold the appropriate Tanker Endorsement. Evidence of compliance with these requirements must be shown when the dispensation is requested.

Yours truly,

Nigel E Smith
International Registrar of Shipping and Seamen

Stamp: XA 1709 (Circular stamp with Japanese characters) JWS
Handwritten initials: SMMA