



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM6/5/2/1
SM 14/2/7/1
SM 9/2/2

Date: 07 December 2016

Marine Notice No. 38 of 2016

Extension of Validity of STCW Certificates

TO ALL SEAFARERS, EMPLOYERS, SHIP OWNERS and OPERATORS, FLAG STATE INSPECTORS, PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS, SURVEYORS

Summary

At its 97th session, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), noted with concern that some seafarers have not yet been issued certificates compliant with the STCW Convention as amended in 2010. It thus agreed to extend the transitional provisions for compliance to 01 July 2017, as published in MSC's circular - MSC.1/Circ.1560 dated 05 December 2016.

Introduction

1. The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) invites all South African seafarers, other seafarers holding South African Certificates of Equivalent Competency to note the contents of the aforementioned circular, attached as an appendix.
2. SAMSA invites all employers, ship owners, surveyors, Port State Control Officer (PSCO) and flag state administrators to note the contents of the said circular and act accordingly and request that you note the following:
 - 2.1. All Certificates of Proficiency issued by SAMSA that were valid for service at sea immediately on or before 31 December 2016, shall remain valid for service until 01 July 2017.
 - 2.2. All Certificates of Competency issued on or after 01 July 2012, where their endorsements expired or are valid until 31 December 2016 shall remain valid for service at sea until 01 July 2017.
 - 2.3. All endorsements for foreign certificates of competency issued on or after 01 July 2012, where the endorsement from their certificate issuing administration remains valid, the endorsement issued by SAMSA shall remain valid for service at sea until 01 July 2017.
3. All employers, surveyors, Port State Control Officer (PSCO) and Flag State administrators are requested to allow seafarers holding South African certificates service on their ships as permitted by MSC.1/Circ.1560.
4. This Marine Notice shall not substitute the needs to verify the authenticity of the certificate held by various seafarers during inspections, survey or the employment process.
5. Enquiries relating this Marine Notice and the Circular must be directed to:
 - 5.1. Verification of certificates: the Registrar of Seafarers via e-mail to seafarers@samsa.org.za.

5.2. Matters relating to the application for certificates: the Chief Examiner via e-mail to exams@samsa.org.za.

6. SAMSA encourages all seafarers holding STCW certificates to approach SAMSA for revalidation or renewal of their current certificates to new format certificates at the earliest possible time to avoid delays at the end of the extension.

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MSC.1/Circ.1560
5 December 2016

**ADVICE FOR PARTIES, ADMINISTRATIONS, PORT STATE CONTROL AUTHORITIES
AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN CASES WHERE
NOT ALL SEAFARERS CARRY CERTIFICATES AND ENDORSEMENTS MEETING THE
2010 MANILA AMENDMENTS TO THE STCW CONVENTION AND CODE FROM
1 JANUARY 2017**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-seventh session (21 to 25 November 2016), expressed concern about the implementation of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, in light of the imminent end, on 1 January 2017, of the transitional provisions laid down in the STCW Convention, regulation I/15.

2 The Committee noted that a large number of certificates needed to be issued by certificate-issuing Parties confirming that their seafarers complied with the provisions of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, and further noted that the provisions of regulation I/10 required Administrations to issue endorsements to masters, officers and radio personnel for service on their ships.

3 The Committee was particularly concerned about and regretted the fact that, so close to the end of the transitional period, seafarers in some States were reportedly unable to obtain certificates and/or the necessary endorsements required by regulation I/10 meeting the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention.

4 The Committee, therefore, urged all concerned, including certificate-issuing Parties and Administrations, to do their utmost to ensure that seafarers were issued with the appropriate certificates and necessary endorsements.

5 The Committee recognized that some seafarers on board ships may not yet hold their certificates or flag State endorsements meeting the 2010 Manila Amendments to the Convention and urged port State control authorities to take the above factors into consideration when taking action under the control procedures in article X and regulation I/4 of the STCW Convention. The Committee agreed that, in cases where a seafarer's documentation complied with the requirements in force immediately before 1 January 2017, but was not in accordance with the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, port State control authorities, until 1 July 2017, were recommended to take a pragmatic and practical approach during inspections and to notify the ships, seafarers and Administrations concerned accordingly.

6 The Committee also recommended that Administrations should inform recognized organizations issuing ISM Code certification under SOLAS 74 that, until 1 July 2017, if a seafarer's documentation was not in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, it would be sufficient to inform the Administration when assessing compliance with the provisions of the ISM Code.

7 Member States are invited to be guided accordingly and to bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all concerned, especially port State control authorities and recognized organizations.
