

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING  
LEMESOS**

Circular No. 3/2006

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To all Owners, Managers  
and Representatives  
of Ships under the Cyprus Flag

25 January 2006

**Subject: International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, STCW 78, as Amended- Issue of Seafarer's Identification and Sea Service Record Books and Endorsements Attesting the Recognition of Non Cyprus Certificates**

I refer to the above subject and further to our circulars No. 14/2001 dated 29 June 2001 and 26/2001 dated 19/12/2001, I wish to inform that the list of Countries whose certificates of competency are presently recognised by the Republic of Cyprus is as follows:

**LIST OF COUNTRIES WHOSE CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY ARE PRESENTLY ACCEPTED FOR THE ISSUE OF ENDORSEMENTS ATTESTING THE RECOGNITION OF NON CYPRUS CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY**

Argentina	Estonia	Jamaica	Poland	Ukraine
Australia	Finland	Japan*	Portugal	United Kingdom
Belgium	France	Latvia	Republic of Korea	United States
Brazil	Georgia	Lithuania	Romania	Viet Nam
Bulgaria	Germany	Maldives*	Russian Federation	Serbia & Montenegro
Canada	Ghana*	Malta	Singapore	
Cape Verde*	Greece	Mexico	Slovakia	
Chile	Hong Kong	Myanmar	Slovenia	
China	Hungary	Netherlands	South Africa	
Croatia	Iceland	New Zealand	Spain	
Cuba	India	Norway	Sri Lanka*	
Czech	Indonesia	Pakistan	Sweden	
Denmark	Ireland	Peru	Tonga*	
Egypt*	Italy	Philippines	Turkey	

\* Countries whose certificates of competency are under consideration for recognition by the European Commission.

The Republic of Cyprus, following its accession to the European Union on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004, has an obligation to comply with European Directive 2001/25/EC on the minimum level of training of seafarers. Article 18(3) of the abovementioned directive refers to the obligation of a Member State to submit a request for the recognition of a third (non-European) country to the Commission, stating its reasons.

The Commission, assisted by the European Maritime Safety Agency, and with the possible involvement of any member State concerned, will collect all the information referred to in Annex II of the directive and will assess whether the country in question meets all the requirements of the STCW Convention and whether the appropriate measures have been taken to prevent fraud involving certificates. The decision on the recognition of a third country will be taken by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 23(2) of the above mentioned directive, within three months from the date of the request for recognition of the certificates of the Non-European Country.

Cyprus had, in the past recognised the certificates of competency of a number of countries listed on the IMO white list, which, however, were not recognised by the European Commission and issued to holders of such certificates Cyprus endorsements attesting the recognition of their non-Cyprus certificates of competency. In order to avoid causing any inconvenience and injustice to the officers concerned, their Cyprus endorsement certificate will continue to be valid for a period of six months from the date of this circular or until their endorsement is expired, whichever comes earlier.

The Department will be at the disposal of Owners, Managers and anyone concerned with the matter for any explanations and clarifications they may require.

Serghios S. Serghiou  
Director  
Department of Merchant Shipping

cc Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works  
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad  
Inspectors of Cyprus ships  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic of Cyprus  
Cyprus Shipping Council  
Cyprus Union of Shipowners  
Cyprus Bar Association