

REPUBLIC



OF CYPRUS

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING  
LEMESOS

Circular No. 4/2002

TEN:1/5

TEN:32/4/15

29 January 2002

TO ALL OWNERS,  
MANAGERS AND REPRESENTATIVES  
OF SHIPS UNDER THE CYPRUS FLAG

**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 OF COMPETENCY**

With reference to the above subject and further to our circulars No14/2001 dated 29 June 2001 and No. 26/2001 dated 19 December 2001, I wish to inform you the following:

**1. "SIX-MONTH GRACE PERIOD FOR STCW 95 COMPLIANCE"**

The Sub-committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW) at its thirty-third session (21 to 25 January 2002), issued circular STCW.7/Circ.12, shown in Annex 1, which recommends that, until 31 July 2002, port State officers issue only a warning in cases where a seafarer's documentation complies with the requirements immediately before 1 February 2002 but it is not in accordance with the requirements of STCW95.

Owners, Managers and Operators of ships flying the Cyprus flag are hereby required to forward a copy of this circular on board each ship flying the Cyprus flag and instruct the Master accordingly.

## 2. ENDORSEMENTS ATTESTING THE RECOGNITION OF NON CYPRUS CERTIFICATES

Notwithstanding the above, Companies are required to apply to this Administration for the issue of Cyprus endorsements attesting the recognition of non Cyprus Certificates for all Masters and Officers serving on board Cyprus flag vessels (for holders of non Cyprus STCW95 Certificates of competency) as soon as possible, in accordance with the procedures stipulated in circulars No. 14/2001 and 26/ 2001.

It should be noted that compliance with the provisions of the STCW Convention as amended and our Circulars No 14/2001 and No 26/2001 is not waived by circular STCW.7/Circ.12, however we recognise that in exceptional circumstances, when Masters or Officers are unable to obtain STCW95 certificates of competency from the respective Administrations, they may continue to be employed on Cyprus ships , until 31 July 2002, provided that they hold valid, recognised certificates of competency and training documentary evidence required by the relevant provisions of the STCW Convention as amended in force immediately before 1 February 2002.

You are also advised that the processing of applications made to the Department for the issue of Seafarer's Identification and Sea Service Record Books (SISRB) to all seafarers serving on Cyprus ships, will be delayed in the case of ratings due to the need for priority processing of the applications, for the issue of endorsements attesting the recognition of non Cyprus certificates of competency.

Nevertheless, you are urged to promptly apply for the issue of SISRB for all seafarers serving on Cyprus ships as your failure to do so will be considered by this Department as violation of the Cyprus legislation and of the obligations of your company under the ISM Code.

Serghios S. Serghiou  
Director  
Department of Merchant Shipping

CC Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad  
Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic of Cyprus  
Inspectors of Cyprus ships  
Recognised Classification Societies

Cyprus Shipping Association (Sea Rovers) Ltd  
Cyprus Shipping Council  
Union of Cypriot Shipowners  
Cyprus Bar Association  
Cyprus Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Association  
Master Mariners Association  
Cyprus Seafarers` Unions

GAD/GAD



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STCW.7/Circ.12  
25 January 2002  
Original: ENGLISH

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON  
STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR  
SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978, AS AMENDED**

**Advice for port State control officers and recognized organizations on action to be taken in  
cases where not all seafarers carry certificates and endorsements meeting STCW 95  
requirements after 1 February 2002**

1 The Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping, at its thirty-third session (21 to 25 January 2002), reviewed progress with the implementation of the 1995 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 February 2002, of the transitional provisions laid down in STCW regulation I/15.

2 The Sub-Committee recalled the key radical changes introduced by the 1995 amendments to the STCW Convention, including the provisions for endorsement attesting to the recognition of another Party's certificates (regulation I/10) and the responsibilities of companies (regulation I/14) which resulted in certain delays in the Convention's full implementation.

3 The Sub-Committee noted with satisfaction the number of STCW Parties thus far found to be giving 'full and complete effect' to the relevant provisions of the STCW Convention as given in MSC/Circ.1018.

4 The Sub-Committee also 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 1995 amendments to the STCW Convention and further noted that the provisions of regulation I/10 require Administrations to issue endorsements to masters, officers and radio personnel for service on their ships.

5 The Sub-Committee was particularly concerned about, and regretted the fact that, so close to the end of the transitional period, seafarers were reportedly unable to obtain STCW 95 certificates and/or the necessary endorsements required by regulation I/10.

6 The Sub-Committee also noted that a considerable number of endorsements are required to be issued by Administrations and undertakings to be agreed between Parties to allow for recognition of certificates under regulation I/10.

7 The Sub-Committee therefore urged all concerned, including certificate-issuing Parties and Administrations, to do their utmost to ensure that seafarers are issued with the appropriate

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certificates and necessary endorsements by expediting the proposed undertakings and providing the information required for issuing the necessary endorsements.

8 The Sub-Committee recognized that all seafarers on board ships may not yet hold their STCW 95 certificates or flag State endorsements and urges 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 Sub-Committee agreed that, in cases where a seafarer's documentation complies with the requirements in force immediately before 1 February 2002, but is not in accordance with the requirements of STCW 95, port State control officers, until 31 July 2002, are recommended to issue only a warning to companies and to notify the seafarers and Administrations concerned accordingly.

9 The Sub-Committee also recommended that Administrations should inform recognized organizations issuing ISM Code certification under SOLAS 74 that, until 31 July 2002, if a seafarer's documentation is not in accordance with STCW 95, it would be sufficient to inform the Administration when assessing compliance with the provisions of the ISM Code.

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

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