

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (ISSUE AND RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES AND MARINE TRAINING)
LAWS OF 2008 TO 2023
(LAW 27(I)/2008 AS AMENDED)¹

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS ²

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¹ **Consolidation Note:** The present consolidated text includes the text of basic Law 27(I)/2008 and the amendments introduced by Laws 10(I)/2017, 139(I)/2022 and 116(I)/2023. These Laws were published in the Greek language in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus. This is an “unofficial” consolidated translation into English prepared by the Shipping Deputy Ministry (SDM) and does not intend to replace any translation prepared by the Law Commissioner’s Office.

According to Article 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish and therefore the present translation into English **is not the authentic version. The authentic and therefore legally binding version, is the Greek version of these Laws.**

Disclaimer: Consolidation entails the integration of basic instruments of Cyprus merchant shipping legislation, their amendments and corrections in single, non-official documents. Each document is intended for use as a documentation tool and the Shipping Deputy Ministry of the Republic of Cyprus does not assume any liability for its content.

² **Consolidation Note:** The present Arrangement of Sections does not form a part of the Laws-Statutes. It is added by the SDM to assist the reader.

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For the purposes of

- (a) More effective application of the International Convention on the Standards of Training , Certification and Watch keeping of Seafarers , 1978,(STCW) as amended in 1995 and 2010 and as it has at its updated version , and
- (b) harmonization with the European Community Act titled “ Directive 2001/25/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4th April 2001 for the minimum level of training of Seafarers “ as amended lately by the Directive 2005/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7th September 2005,
- (c) harmonization with the European Union Act titled “ Directive 2012/35/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st November 2012 for the amendment of Directive 2008/106/EC on the minimum level of training of seafarers.

The House of Representatives enacts as follows:

Short title.

1. These Laws shall be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Issue and Recognition of Certificates and Marine Training) Laws of 2008 to 2023.

PART I PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Interpretation.

2. In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires:

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.

“able seafarer deck” means a rating qualified in accordance with Regulation II/5 of the STCW Annex;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.

“able seafarer engine” means a rating qualified in accordance with Regulation III/5 of the STCW Annex;

“approved” means approved by the Competent Authority; the term “ approve “ has proportional meaning;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.

“certificate of competency” means a certificate, issued and endorsed for masters, officers and GMDSS radio operators in accordance with Chapters II,III,IV or VII of STCW Annex and entitling the lawful holder thereof to serve in the capacity and perform the functions involved at the level of responsibility specified therein;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.

“certificate of proficiency” means a certificate, other than a certificate of competency, issued to a seafarer stating that the relevant requirements of training, competencies or seagoing service mentioned in the STCW Annex have been met;

“certificate of restricted use” means a certificate issued to members of the personnel of the Cyprus Port and Marine Police for exclusive use on vessels of the Port and Marine Police;

“chemical tanker” means a ship constructed or adapted and used for the carriage in bulk of any liquid products listed in Chapter 17 of the International Bulk Chemical Code (IBC Code);

“chief engineer” means the senior engineering officer who is responsible for the mechanical propulsion, the operation and maintenance of the mechanical and electrical installations of the ship;

“chief mate” means the officer next in rank to the master, who will have the command of the ship in the event of incapacity of the master to perform his duties;

2(a) of 10(I)/2017.
Gazette
Suppl. III(I)
27.7.2012.
P.I. 278/2012.

“coastal passenger vessel” means the vessel as defined in *the Coastal and Other Passenger Vessels Regulations of 2012*;

“Company” means the owner of the ship or any other organization or person such as the manager or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for the operation of the ship from the owner and who on assuming the responsibility has agreed to take over all duties and responsibilities under this Law, or referred in Directive 2001/25/EC;

3(a) of 139(I)/2022

“Competent Authority” means the Shipping Deputy Minister to the President and officers of the Shipping Deputy Ministry who are authorised by him;

45 of 1963
32 of 1965
82 of 1968
62 of 1973
102 of 1973
45 of 1974
42 of 1979
25 of 1980
14 of 1982
57 of 1986
64 of 1987
28(I) of 1995
37 (I) of 1996
138(I) of 2003
169(I) of 2004
108(I) of 2005.

“Cyprus ship” has the meaning assigned to it by section 5 of *the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships, Sales and Mortgages) Law of 1963-2005*;

“deck officer” means an officer qualified in accordance with the provisions of

Chapter II of the STCW Convention;

2(b) of 139(I)/2022.
123(I) of 2017.

“Deputy Minister“ means the Shipping Deputy Minister to the President appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Establishment of a Shipping Deputy Ministry and Appointment of a Shipping Deputy Minister to the President and for Matters Connected Therewith Law of 2017;

2(b) of 139(I)/2022.

[the term "Director" was repealed by section 2(b) of Amendment Law 139(I)/2022];

“Directive 2001/25/EC“ means the Community Act titled “ Directive 2001/25/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 April 2001 on the minimum level of training of seafarers” as this Act was amended by the Directive 2005/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005, and as further is amended or replaced from time to time;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.
OJ L 323, 3.12.2008,
p.33

“Directive 2008/106/EC“ means the Community Act titled “Directive 2008/106/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008, on the minimum level of training of seafarers”, as this Act was amended by Directive 2012/35/EU and as is further amended or replaced from time to time;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.

“Directive 2012/35/EU“ means the Act of the European Union titled “Directive 2012/35/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21st November 2012 for the amendment of the Directive 2008/106/EK on the minimum level of training of seafarers” as amended or replaced from time to time;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.

“documentary evidence“ means documentation, other than the certificate of competency or the certificate of proficiency, used to establish that the relevant requirements of the STCW Annex have been met;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.

“electro-technical officer“ means an officer qualified in accordance with Regulation III/6 of the STCW Annex;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.

“electro-technical rating“ means a rating qualified in accordance with Regulation III/7 of the STCW Annex;

“endorsement“ means the valid document which was issued by the Competent Authority, by virtue of the provisions of this Law. The term “endorse“ has proportionate meaning;

“engineer officer“ means an officer qualified in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III of the STCW Convention;

“fishing vessel“ means a vessel used for catching fish or other living resources

of the sea;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017. “GMDSS radio operator” means the officer in charge qualified in accordance with Chapter IV of the STCW Annex;

3(a) of 139(I)/2022. “Higher Education” means the education as defined in section 2 of the Quality Assurance and Certification of Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency for Related Matters Law 136(I) of 2015, as amended;

136(I) of 2015
47(I) of 2016
35(I) of 2019
54(I) of 2020
138(I) of 2020
208(I) of 2020
132(I) of 2021.

2 of 116(I)/2023. “host Member State” means the Member State in which seafarers seek acceptance or recognition of their certificates of competency, certificates of proficiency or documentary evidence;

“IBC Code” means the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk, which was ratified by *the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (Ratification) and for Matters Connected Therewith Laws of 1985 to 2006*, as this Code has at its updated version;

“IGC Code” means the International IMO Code for the Construction and Equipment of ships carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk, which was ratified by *the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (Ratification) and for Matters Connected Therewith Laws of 1985 to 2006*, as this Code has at its updated version;

2 of 116(I)/2023. “IGF Code” means the International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashpoint Fuels, as defined in SOLAS 74 Regulation II-1/2.29;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017. “International Telecommunication Convention” means the International Convention ratified by *the International Convention on Telecommunication and Related Protocols (Ratification) Law of 1986*;

62 of 1986.

2(b) of 10(I)/2017. “ISPS Code” means the International Code for the Security of Ships and of Port Facilities from illegal acts, ratified by *the Convention of the International Maritime Organization (Ratification) and for Matters Connected Therewith Laws of 1973-1996*;

73 of 1973
59 of 1975
58 of 1977
12 of 1979
30 of 1982
22(III) of 1993
7 (III) of 1996.

“liquefied gas tanker” means a ship constructed or adapted and used for the

carriage in bulk of any liquefied gas or other products listed in Chapter 19 of the International Gas Carrier Code (IGC Code);

3(a) of 139(I)/2022.

"Maritime Training Center" means a maritime training center which is recognized by the Competent Authority in accordance with the provisions of Part IX and which offers approved seafaring training programmes which provide certificates, as defined in the STCW Code:

Provided that, the maritime training center is not a training center of a tertiary education pursuant to the provisions of the Institutions of Tertiary Education Law 67(I) of 1996, as amended;

67(I) of 1996
15(I) of 1997
67(I) of 1997
10(I) of 1999
193(I) of 2002
45(I) of 2003
25(I) of 2004
221(I) of 2004
198(I) of 2007
89(I) of 2008
88(I) of 2009
1(I) of 2010
53(I) of 2013
36(I) of 2019.

2(b) of 10(I)/2017.

"MARPOL Convention" means the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea from Ships of 1973 and the relevant Protocol of 1978, which were ratified by *the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea from Ships (Ratification) and for Matters Connected Therewith Laws of 1989- 2005*;

57 of 1989
11(III) of 1995
11(III) of 2001
38(III) of 2003
46(III) of 2004
36(III) of 2005.

"master" means the person having command of the ship;

"master of coastal passenger vessel" means the person having command of the coastal passenger vessel;

"master of small passenger vessel" means the person having the command of a small passenger vessel which navigates out of the territorial sea of the Republic, with maximum capacity 12 persons;

"Member State" means a member state of the European Union or any other State which is a contracting party to the European Economic Area Agreement, signed in Porto on 2nd May 1992, and was adjusted by the Protocol which was signed in Brussels on 17th May 1993, as this Agreement is amended from time to time or replaced;

- 2(a) of 139(I)/2022. [the term "Minister" was repealed by section 2(a) of Amendment Law
3(b) of 139(I)/2022.
- "month" means a calendar month or 30 days made up of periods of less than one month;
- 2(b) of 10(I)/2017. "notification" means the notification of the Permanent Secretary published in
2(b) of 139(I)/2022. the Gazette;
- "officer" means a member of the crew, other than the master, designated as officer in accordance with the provisions of section 5;
- 2(b) of 10(I)/2017. "officer in charge of an engineering watch" means the officer qualified in
accordance with the provisions of Regulation III/1 of the STCW Annex;
- 2(b) of 10(I)/2017. "officer in charge of a navigational watch" means the officer qualified in
accordance with the provisions of Regulation II/1 of the STCW Annex;
- "oil tanker" means a ship constructed and used for the carriage of petroleum or petroleum products in bulk;
- 2(a) of 10(I)/2017. "passenger ship" means a ship as defined in SOLAS Convention, as amended
from time to time;
- "passenger" means the passenger as defined by SOLAS Convention as amended from time to time;
- 2(b) of 139(I)/2022. "Permanent Secretary" means the Permanent Secretary of the Shipping
Deputy Ministry and includes the person who acts as acting Permanent Secretary of the Shipping Deputy Ministry and officers of the Shipping Deputy Ministry who are authorised by the Permanent Secretary;
- 2 of 116(I)/2023. "Polar Code" means the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar
Waters, as defined in SOLAS 74 Regulation XIV/1.1;
- 2 of 116(I)/2023. "Polar waters" means Arctic waters and/or the Antarctic area, as defined in
SOLAS 74 Regulations XIV/1.2 to XIV/1.4.'.
- 3(a) of 139(I)/2022. "Port tug" means a ship or vessel with a total propulsion engine power of at
least two thousand kilowatts (2,000 kW), which is used within a port area for
the purpose of propelling or towing ships entering or leaving;
- 44(I) of 2010. "prescribed fee" means a fee which is payable in accordance with the
provisions of *the Merchant Shipping (Fees and Taxing Provisions) Law of 2010*;
- "propulsion power" means the total maximum continuous rated output

power in kilowatts, of all the ship's main propulsion machinery which appears on the ship's certificate of registry or other official document;

“radio duties” includes, as appropriate, watch keeping and technical maintenance and repairs conducted in accordance with the Radio Regulations, the SOLAS Convention, and at the discretion of the Competent Authority, the relevant recommendations of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as they have in their updated version;

2(a) of 10(I)/2017. “Radiocommunications Regulations” means the Radiocommunications Regulations annexed to or regarded as being annexed to the International Telecommunication Convention, as amended;

“rating” means a member of the ship's crew other than the master or an officer;

2(a) of 10(I)/2017. “recognition” means, in the case where the Republic is State of reception, the acceptance by the Competent Authority of the certificate of competency or the certificate of proficiency which has been issued by another State . The term “recognize” has proportional meaning;

“Register” means the Register, established in accordance with the provisions of section 41 of this Law;

“Republic” means the Republic of Cyprus;

2(a) of 10(I)/2017. “Ro-Ro passenger ship” means a ship, as defined in the SOLAS Convention as amended from time to time;

“seafarer” means the qualified person who holds a certificate issued by a Member State, at least in line with the requirements of Annex I of Directive 2001/25/EC;

2(a) of 10(I)/2017. “sea service” means service on board a ship, relevant to the issue or revalidation of a certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency or other qualification;

“sea-going ship” means any ship other than a coastal passenger vessel;

“second engineer” means the engineering officer next in rank to the chief engineering officer and upon whom the responsibility rests for the mechanical propulsion, the operation and maintenance of the mechanical and electrical installations of the ship, in the event of incapacity of the chief engineering officer to perform his duties;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017. “security duties” means all security tasks and duties on board ships as defined by Chapter XI /2 of the SOLAS Convention, as amended and by the ISPS Code;

“ship security officer” means a member of the crew, accountable to the master, designated by the Company as responsible for the security of the ship including implementation and maintenance of the ship security plan and liaison with the Company security officer and port facility security officers;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017. “small passenger vessel” means the vessel as defined in *the Coastal and Other Passenger Vessels Regulations of 2012*;

2(a) of 10(I)/2017. “SOLAS Convention” means the International Convention for the Safety of life at Sea of 1974(SOLAS) which was ratified by *the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (Ratification) and for Matters Connected therewith Laws of 1985-2012* as well as the Protocols and the amendments of this Convention as this Convention and the Protocols have at their updated versions;

77of 1985
32 of 1989
24(III) of 1997
10(III) of 2001
52(II) of 2004
24(III) of 2006
9(III) of 2009
15(III) of 2012.

2(b) of 10(I)/2017. “State of Reception” means the State where the seafarer seeks the recognition of the certificate of competency or of proficiency;

2(b) of 10(I)/2017. “STCW Annex” means the Annex of the STCW Convention;

“STCW Code” means the Seafarers Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code, which was partially ratified by the Republic by *the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 1995, (Ratification) and For Matters Connected therewith (Amended) Laws of 1998* as this Code has at its updated version;

2(a) of 10(I)/2017. “STCW Convention” means the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 1995 and 2010, and was ratified by *the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers, 1978 (Ratification) and For Matters Connected Therewith Laws of 1985 -2012*, as this Convention has at its updated version, and is applicable for said matters, bearing in mind of the transitional provisions of Article VII and of Regulation I/15 of said Convention, including, as the case might be, the applicable provisions of the STCW Code;

8 of 1985
1(III) of 1988
12(III) of 2012.

“ship flying the flag of a Member State” means a ship registered in and flying the flag of a Member State in accordance with its legislation; a ship not corresponding to this definition shall be regarded as a ship flying the flag of a third country;

“tanker” means oil tanker, liquefied gas tanker or chemical tanker;

“territorial sea” has the meaning attributed to this term by *the Territorial Sea Law*;

“third country” shall mean any country which is not a Member State.

(2) Words and phrases, unless otherwise defined in this Law, shall have the meaning assigned to them by the STCW Convention, the STCW Code and Directive 2001/25/EC.

(3) The amendments to the international instruments referred to in subsection (1) do not include amendments excluded from the scope of application of Directive 2001/25/EC, pursuant to Article 5 of “Regulation (EC) No. 2099/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 November 2002 establishing a Committee on Safe Seas and the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (COSS) and amending the Regulations on maritime safety and the prevention of pollution from ships” as lately amended by Regulation (EC) No. 93/2007 of the Commission, of 30 January 2007, and as from time to time amended or replaced.

Scope of application.

3.-(1) This Law, save for sections 39 to 43, applies to masters and seafarers which are nationals of a member state or a third country , employed on sea-going Cyprus ships, with the exception of :

- (a) warship, or ship owned or operated by the Republic and engaged only in governmental non-commercial service;
- (b) fishing vessel;
- (c) recreational craft, not engaged in trade;
- (d) wooden ship of primitive built.

3(a) of 10(I)/2017.

(2) Part VII applies to seafarers employed on board coastal passenger vessels.

3 of 116(I)/2023.

(3) The provisions of section 48, concerning the recognition of certificates of competency and proficiency of a Member State, apply to seafarers who hold a certificate issued by a Member State, regardless of their nationality.

*Competent Authority.
4 of 10(I)/2017.
4 of 139(I)/2022.*

4. The Competent Authority is responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Law and by virtue of this Law issued Regulations, in respect of the issue, endorsement and recognition of certificates of competency and/or certificates of proficiency and/or documentary evidence and the approval and evaluation of maritime training centers.

2(a) of 139(I)/2022.

2(a) of 139(I)/2022.
Officers.
5(a) of 10(I)/2017.

5. A person shall be qualified as an officer for the purposes of this Law, if he holds a certificate of competency either issued and recognized or recognized and endorsed by the Competent Authority in accordance with the provisions of this Law, in one of the following capacities:

5(b) of 10(I)/2017.

- (a) (i) Master.
- (ii) Chief mate.
- (iii) Officer in charge of a navigational watch.
- (b) (i) Chief engineer officer.
- (ii) Second engineer officer.
- (iii) Officer in charge of an engineering watch.
- (iv) Electro- technical officer.

5(c) of 10(I)/2017.
5(c) of 10(I)/2017.

5(d) of 10(I)/2017.

- (c) G.M.D.S.S radio operator.

6 of 10(I)/2017.

PART II CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY, CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY AND ENDORSEMENTS

*Certificates of
competency,
proficiency,
documentary
evidence.*
7 of 10(I)/2017

6. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7, every person serving on board a Cyprus ship, must be furnished with the appropriate certificates of competency or proficiency or and the relevant documentary evidence in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Convention, for such a position, issued and /or endorsed in accordance with the provisions of Part VI or recognized and endorsed in accordance with the provisions of Part VIII of this Law.

4 of 116(I)/2023.

(2) Certificates provided under subsection (1) shall be kept available in their original form on board the ship on which the holder is serving, in a hard copy or in a digital format, and their authenticity and validity may be verified under the procedure laid down in the provisions of subsection (4) of section 41.

Dispensations.

8(a) of 10(I)/2017.

7.-(1) In circumstances of exceptional necessity, the Competent Authority may, at the Company's request, if in its opinion this does not cause danger to persons, property or the environment, issue a dispensation permitting a specified seafarer to serve in a specified ship for a specified period not exceeding six months in the capacity of chief mate or second engineer officer, for which he does not hold the certificate of competency or proficiency, provided that the person to whom the dispensation is issued shall be adequately qualified to fill the vacant post in a safe manner, in the judgment of the Competent Authority.

(2) Dispensations shall not be granted to serve in the capacity of the radio operator, except as provided by the relevant Radiocommunications Regulations.

(3) Dispensations shall not be granted to serve in the capacity of a master or chief engineering officer except in circumstances of force majeure and only for the shortest possible period.

8(b) of 10(I)/2017.

(4) Any dispensation issued to serve in a post shall be granted only to a person who holds the certificate of Competency required in order to fill the post immediately below the post which he holds.

PART III

CLASSIFICATION OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

9 of 10(I)/2017.

10 of 10(I)/2017.

8. [Section 8 was deleted -repealed by section 10 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].

Certificates of competency for personnel in charge of a navigational watch.
11 of 10(I)/2017.

9. The certificates of competency for personnel in charge of a navigational watch may be classified as follows:

- (a) Certificate of competency of master.
- (b) Certificate of competency of chief mate.
- (c) Certificate of competency of officer in charge of a navigational watch.
- (d) Certificate of competency of GMDSS radio operator

Certificates of competency for personnel in charge of an engineering watch.
12 of 10(I)/2017.

10. Certificates of competency for personnel in charge of an engineering watch may be classified as follows:

- (a) Certificate of competency of chief engineer.
- (b) Certificate of competency of second engineer.
- (c) Certificate of competency of officer in charge of an engineering watch
- (d) Certificate of competency of an electro-technical officer.

13 of 10(I)/2017.

11. [Section 11 was deleted -repealed by section 13 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].

14 of 10(I)/2017.

**PART IV
MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF
COMPETENCY, CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY OR OTHER DOCUMENTARY
EVIDENCE**

*Certificate of
competency
of master.
15 of 10(I)/2017.*

12.-(1) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of master on sea-going ships of 3.000 gross tonnage or more , must :

(a) meet the requirements of Regulation II/2 of the STCW Annex; and

(b) have sea service not less than 12 months on sea-going ships of 3.000 gross tonnage or more, or sea service not less than 18 months on seagoing vessels of 500 gross tonnage or more, provided that he/she has sea service not less than 6 months on seagoing ships of 3.000 gross tonnage or more, which was completed after obtaining the certificate of competency of chief mate , with chief mates duties.

(2) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of master on sea-going ships up to 3.000 gross tonnage must:

(a) meet the requirements of Regulation II/2 of the STCW Annex; and

(b) must have sea service not less than 12 months on sea-going ships of 500 gross tonnage or more , which was completed after obtaining the certificate of competency of chief mate, with chief mates duties.

5 of 139(I)/2022.

(3) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of master on sea-going ships up to 500 GT, must:

(a) meet the requirements of Regulation II/3 of the STCW Convention;

(b) have a good command of the English language at level B2, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CERF); and

(c) hold a G.M.D.S.S. radio operator qualification certificate.

(4) The Competent Authority may issue certificate of competency of master and officer in charge of a navigational watch, according to the provisions of Chapter II/3 of the STCW Annex for service on ships of type and tonnage less than 500, which do not move off more than 20 nautical miles from the coasts of Cyprus, as defined from time to time by notification.

(5) In the notification mentioned in subsection (4) above, other points as these mentioned in PART A-I/3 of the STCW Code, may be defined.

Certificate of competency of chief mate. 16 of 10(I)/2017.

13.-(1) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of a chief mate on sea-going ships of 3.000 gross tonnage or more, must :

(a) meet the requirements of Regulation II/2 of the STCW Annex; and

(b) have sea service not less than 12 months on seagoing ships of 3.000 gross tonnage or more, or sea service not less than 18 months on seagoing vessels of 500 gross tonnage or more, provided that he/she has sea service not less than 6 months on seagoing ships of 3.000 gross tonnage or more, which was completed after obtaining the certificate of competency of officer in charge of a navigational watch, with officer's in charge of a navigational watch duties.

(2) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of chief mate on sea-going ships up to 3.000 gross tonnage, must meet the requirements of Regulation II/2 of the STCW Annex.-

Certificate of competency of officer in charge of an officer in charge of a navigational watch. 17 of 10(I)/2017. 6 (a) of 139(I)/2022.

14. Every candidate for a certificate of competency of officer in charge of a navigational watch on sea-going ships of 500 gross tonnage or more must:

(a) comply with the provisions of section 6 of the Pancyprian Exams for Admission to High and Higher Institutions of Cyprus and Greece Laws, regarding high school graduates in the Republic or abroad;

(b) meet the requirements of Regulation II/I of the STCW Annex;

(c) have good command of the English language at the level of B2, in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR); and

(d) have a certificate of competency of GMDSS radio operator.

6 (b) of 139(I)/2022.

Certificate of competency of chief engineer. 17 of 10(I)/2017.

15.-(1) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of chief engineer on sea-going ships of 3.000 kW propulsion power or more, must :

(a) meet the requirements of Regulation III/2 of the STCW Annex; and

(b) have sea service not less than 12 months on board ships with propulsion power of not less than 3.000KW or sea service not less

than 18 months on board ships with propulsion power not less than 750 KW, provided that he/she has sea service not less than 6 months on board ships with propulsion power of not less than 3.000 KW, which was completed after obtaining the certificate of competency of the second engineer, with second engineer's duties.

(2) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of chief engineer on sea-going ships of propulsion power between 750 KW and 3.000 KW, must :

- (a) meet the requirements of Regulation III/3 of the STCW Annex; and
- (b) have sea service not less than 12 months on board ships with propulsion power of not less than 750 KW, which was completed after obtaining the certificate of competency of the second engineer with second engineer's duties .

(3) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of chief engineer on sea-going ships with maximum propulsion power 750 KW, must have sea service not less than 12 months on board ships with propulsion power of not less than 750 KW, which was completed after obtaining the certificate of competency of officer in charge of an engineering watch duties.

Certificate of competency of second engineer. 17 of 10(I)/2017.

16. – (1) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of second engineer on sea-going ships of propulsion power of 3.000 KW or more, must :

- (a) meet the requirements of Regulation III/2 of the STCW Annex; and
- (b) have sea service not less than 12 months on board ships with propulsion power of not less than 3.000KW or sea service not less than 18 months on board ships with propulsion power not less than 750 KW, provided that he/she has sea service not less than 6 months on board vessels with propulsion power of not less than 3.000 KW , which was completed after obtaining the certificate of competency of the officer in charge of an engineering watch, with officer's in charge of an engineering watch duties.

(2) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of second engineer on sea-going ships of propulsion power between 750 KW and 3.000 KW must meet the requirements of Regulation III/3 STCW Annex.

Certificate of competency of officer in charge of an engineering watch. 17 of 10(I)/2017.

17. – (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection(2), every candidate for a certificate of competency of an officer in charge of an engineering watch, on sea-going ships of 750 KW propulsion power or more must :

- 7 (a) of 139(I)/2022.*
- (a) comply with the provisions of section 6 of the Pancyprian Exams for Admission to High and Higher Institutions of Cyprus and Greece Laws, regarding high school graduates in the Republic or abroad;
 - (b) meet the requirements of Regulation III/1 of the STCW Annex; and
- 7 (b) of 139(I)/2022.*
- (c) have good command of the English language at the level of B2, in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR); and.
- 7 (c)(i) of 139(I)/2022.*
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), a holder of a Degree of a Cyprus University or of equivalent Degree of a foreign University, in the field of Mechanical Engineer, Naval Mechanical Engineer or Naval Engineer, or of another equivalent field, at the judgement of the Competent Authority, may obtain a certificate of competency of officer in charge of an engineering watch on ships with propulsion power of not less than 750 KW provided that the following conditions apply cumulatively :
- (a) He/she is not less than 18 years of age; and
 - (b) has completed education and training of at least 12 months, which includes on-board training at the engine-room and training at a workshop documented in an approved record book of training which meets the standards of competence which are specified in section A-III/1 of the STCW Code; and
 - (c) has performed during the training mentioned above under (b), duties of an officer in charge of an engineering watch or duty in a periodically unmanned engine-room under the supervision of the chief engineer or of the second engineer for a period of at least 6 months; and
 - (d) has completed successfully an approved education and satisfies the standards of competence specified in Section A-III/1 of the STCW Code; and
- 7 (c)(ii) of 139(I)/2022.*
- (e) has good command of the English language at the level of B2, in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR);; and
- 7 (c)(ii) of 139(I)/2022.*
- (f) fulfils the standards of competence specified in Section A-VI/1,

7 (c)(iii) of 139(I)/2022.	paragraph 2, Section A-VI/2, paragraphs 1 to 4, Section A-VI/3, paragraphs 1 to 4 and Section A-VI/4 , paragraphs 1 to 3 of the STCW Code.
<i>Certificate of competency of electro- technical officer.</i> 18 of 10(I)/2017.	17A.- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2), every candidate for a certificate of competency of electro-technical officer, on sea-going ships of 750 KW propulsion power or more must :
8 (a) of 139(I)/2022.	(a) meet the requirements of Regulation III/6 of the STCW Annex; and (b) have good command of the English language at the level of B2, in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
8 (b)(i) of 139(I)/2022.	(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection(1), a holder of a Degree of a Cyprus University or of equivalent Degree of a foreign University, in the field of Electrical Engineer, or of another equivalent field, at the judgment of the Competent Authority, may obtain a certificate of competency of electro-technical officer on ships of propulsion power of not less than 750 KW provided that the following conditions apply cumulatively :
8 (b)(ii) of 139(I)/2022.	(a) He/she is not less than 18 years of age; and (b) has completed sea service of at least 6 months at the engine room, which includes on-board training documented in an approved record book of training which meets the standards specified in section A-III/6 of the STCW Code; and (c) has successfully completed an approved education and satisfies the standards of competence specified in Section A-III/6 of the STCW Code; and (d) has good command of the English language at the level of B2, in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR); and
8 (b)(ii) of 139(I)/2022.	(e) Fulfils the standards of competence specified in Section A-VI/1, paragraph 2, Section A-VI/2, paragraphs 1 to 4, Section A-VI/3, paragraphs 1 to 4 and Section A-VI/4 , paragraphs 1 to 3 of the STCW Code.
8 (b)(iii) of 139(I)/2022.	
<i>Certificate of competency of master of small passenger vessel.</i>	18.- (1) Every candidate for a certificate of competency of master on small passenger vessel, must: (a) Be of age not less than 23 years; and

- (b) have medical fitness report from which derives that he is mentally and physically fit for the relevant to the certificate sea service; and
 - (c) have completed successfully training on an approved special program, relevant to the requested certificate and which contains among others, the following :
 - (i) training on international voyages navigation, and
 - (ii) general principles of ships building, stability, meteorology, seamanship and maritime law; and
 - (d) hold GMDSS radio –operator certificate on a ship required to participate in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) , issued in accordance with the standards of competence specified in Section A-IV/2 of the STCW Code; and
- 19(a)of 10(I)/2017.* (e) hold a basic training certificate issued in accordance with Section A-VI/1 paragraph 2 of the STCW Code; and
- 19(a)of 10(I)/2017.* (f) hold a medical fitness certificate on board a vessel issued in accordance with the standards of competence specified in Section A-VI/4 , paragraph 1 to 3 of the STCW Code;
- 19(a)of 10(I)/2017.* (g) hold a certificate of proficiency for advance fire fighting issued in accordance with the provisions of Section A-VI/3 of the STCW Code; and
- (h) hold a certificate of RADAR and ARPA operator in accordance to the IMO Model Course 1.08 ; and
- (i) hold a certificate of proficiency on survival craft or lifeboat in accordance with Section A-VI/2 , paragraphs 1 to 4 of the STCW Code; and
- (j) hold a certificate of ECDIS operator in accordance to the IMO Model Course 1.27; and
- (k) have a sea service of at least 36 months which is proved to the Competent Authority; and
- 19(b)of 10(I)/2017.* (l) The certificates mentioned in paragraphs (d) to (j) , must be issued by the Republic or by countries whose certificates of competency are recognized by the Republic, in accordance with the provisions of Part VIII of this Law.
- 19(c) of 10(I)/2017.* (2) [Subsection 2 was deleted by section 19(c) of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].

9 (a) of 139(I)/2022.	(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub section (1), the Competent Authority may provide certificate of competency of master on small passenger vessel, at least to holders of certificate of navigational watch officer which has been issued by the Republic or by countries whose said certificates of competency are recognized by the Republic, provided that they have sea service of at least 6 months on board vessels with at least 500 Gross tonnage, which was achieved following the obtaining of the certificate of competency of officer in charge of a navigational watch, with officer in charge of a navigational watch duties:
9 (a) of 139(I)/2022. 19 (d) of 10(I)/2017.	
9 (b) of 139(I)/2022.	Provided the certificate of competency does not constitute an academic and/or professional higher education qualification.
9 (c) of 139(I)/2022.	(4) The validity of the certificate of competency of master of small passenger vessel shall not exceed the five (5) years, commencing from the date on which the applicant completed the training required by subsection (1) or from the date on which the required service of the certificate of competency referred in subsection (3) was completed.
9 (c) of 139(I)/2022.	(5) The provisions of subsections (1), (2) and (3) of section 44 apply to the revalidation and extension of the validity of the certificate of competency of master of small passenger vessel.
<i>Certificate of proficiency for rating forming part of a navigational watch.</i>	19. -(1) Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency of a rating forming part of a navigational watch or and of an engine – room, must fulfill the requirements of Regulation II/4 or and III/4 of the STCW Annex respectively.
20 of 10(I)/2017.	(2) Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency of able seafarer deck, or and engine, must fulfill the requirements of Regulation II/5 or and III/5 of the STCW Annex respectively.
	(3) Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency of an electro- technical rating , must fulfill the requirements of Regulation III/7 of the STCW Annex.
21 of 10(I)/2017.	20. [Section 20 was deleted -repealed by section 21 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].
<i>Certificate of competency of GMDSS radio operator.</i> 22 of 10(I)/2017.	21. Every candidate for a certificate of competency of GMDSS radio operator, must fulfill the requirements of Regulation IV /2 of the STCW Annex.

10 of 139(I)/2022.	22. <i>[Section 22 was deleted -repealed by section 10 of relevant Amendment Law 139(I)/2022].</i>
<i>Certificates of proficiency and documentary evidence for service on board sea-going ships.</i> 11 of 139(I)/2022.	23. -(1). Every candidate for documentary evidence and/or for the certificates of proficiency required for the execution of service on board ships, as described in the Regulations of Chapters V and VI of the STCW Annex, meets the training requirements of the respective Parts of the STCW Code.
22 of 10(I)/2017.	(2) Holders of certificate of proficiency of a ship security officer, in accordance with Regulation VI/5 of the STCW Annex, are exempted from the provisions of Regulation VI/6 of the STCW Annex.
23 of 10(I)/2017.	24. <i>[Section 24 was deleted -repealed by section 23 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].</i>
23 of 10(I)/2017.	25. <i>[Section 25 was deleted -repealed by section 23 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].</i>
23 of 10(I)/2017.	26. <i>[Section 26 was deleted -repealed by section 23 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].</i>
23 of 10(I)/2017.	27. <i>[Section 27 was deleted -repealed by section 23 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].</i>
23 of 10(I)/2017.	28. <i>[Section 28 was deleted -repealed by section 23 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].</i>
23 of 10(I)/2017.	29. <i>[Section 29 was deleted -repealed by section 23 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].</i>
23 of 10(I)/2017.	30. <i>[Section 30 was deleted -repealed by section 23 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].</i>

23 of 10(I)/2017. **31.** [Section 31 was deleted -repealed by section 23 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].

23 of 10(I)/2017. **32.** [Section 32 was deleted -repealed by section 23 of relevant Amendment Law 10(I)/2017].

PART V REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES

Requirements for the issue of certificates.

33.-(1) The certificates mentioned in Part IV of this Law, shall be granted by the Competent Authority to seafarers, who have in the last five years graduated successfully from a maritime training center, which operates under the supervision of the Competent Authority in accordance with the requirements of International Conventions, Codes ,European Union legislation and the national legislation.

(2) Each application for the issue of a certificate must be submitted by the candidate, accompanied by the following evidence:

- (a) Certificate of medical examination that the candidate is physically and mentally fit for the requested certificate and
- (b) Documentary evidences of the qualifications required for the requested certificate of competence and
- (c) Original documentary evidence of competency, of immediately below the requested certificate rank, if applicable.

(3) For the issue of the certificate, the prescribed fee must be paid.

*Sea service required for obtaining the certificate of competency.
24 of 10(I)/2017.*

34.- (1) Sea service for obtaining a certificate of competency, means the sea service conducted on board a ship in operation as a member of the crew. The sea service required is proportional to the requested certificate unless otherwise specified.

12(a) of 139(I)/2022.

(2) Ships in operation are ships during a voyage or ships in port while loading or unloading or having at least three quarters of their normal crew on board:

12(a) of 139(I)/2022.

Provided that port tugs, regardless of their crew composition, are considered as active vessels for the purposes of obtaining an engine room officer's

certificate of competency:

12(a) of 139(I)/2022. Further provided that, service obtained as a crew member in a towing port shall count only half for the purposes of obtaining a certificate of competency.

(3) Candidates must hold the aforementioned qualifications at the time of application for the issue of the relevant certificate of competency.

(4) The aforementioned qualifications, must be proved by equivalent certificates.

12(b) of 139(I)/2022. (5) The seafarer's paid leave is also counted in the time of sea service, when it is taken after his release from the ship, with a maximum of five (5) days for each month of sea service.

Proof of sea service. **35.**-(1) The sea service shall be evidenced by an official note issued by the Competent Authority in accordance with the entries in the Register kept by the Competent Authority. If the sea service of a candidate has not yet been registered, for the purpose of drafting of the official note, any additional sea service registered in the Sea Service Record Book of the candidate shall be taken into consideration.

13 of 139(I)/2022. (2) Sea service conducted on board foreign flagged ships shall be proved—

(a) either by an official note issued by the Administration (Competent Authority) of the flag State of the vessel which shall include:

- (i) the name, the type and gross tonnage of the port of registry of the vessel;
- (ii) the type, total number of main engines and propulsion power;
- (iii) the name and surname of the seafarer;
- (iv) the dates and ports of sign on and off of the seafarer;
- (v) the capacity, under which the seafarer served on board the vessel.

(b) or by an official confirmation issued by the Administration (Competent Authority) of the flag State within six (6) months of the seafarer's dismissal, provided that he submits documentary evidence, as determined from time to time by circular of the Competent Authority:

Provided that the Competent Authority may request any additional information as evidence for the sea service.

(3) Sea service shall be taken into consideration, only if it satisfies the relevant provisions, regarding the specialization or the rank, for the issue of a certificate or training documentary evidence.

25 of 10(I)/2017. **36.** [*Section 36 was deleted -repealed by section 25 of relevant Amendment*]

Law 10(I)/2017].

*Examination of qualifications.
26 of 10(I)/2017.
2(b) of 139(I)/2022.*

37.-(1) The qualifications of the candidates for certificates of competency shall be examined by a Surveyor of the Seafarers Division of the Shipping Deputy Ministry.

(2) If during the examination there are found deficiencies, the candidate shall be required to restore the deficiencies prior to the issue of the certificate.

*Criminal offence for the deposit of false certificates or documentary evidence.
27 of 10(I)/2017.*

38. Persons that either issue or deposit false certificates or documentary evidence for the issue of certificates of competency or other certificate, shall be guilty of an offence and, in case of conviction, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding three thousand four hundred and seventeen Euro (€3.417); furthermore they shall be deprived for two years of the right to obtain a certificate of competency or to participate to relevant examinations, or to all above mentioned sentences.

PART VI ISSUE AND ENDORSEMENT OF CERTIFICATES – FORM AND VALIDITY – REGISTER OF CERTIFICATES

*Issue and form of certificates.
28(a) of 10(I)/2017.*

39.-(1) The certificates of competency or proficiency shall be issued by the Competent Authority in accordance with Regulation 1/2 of the STCW Annex , including any variations as provided in accordance with Part A-1/2 of the STCW Code, and as long as all the requirements as stated in this Law have been complied with, and upon receipt of any prescribed fee which is due.

14(a) of 139(I)/2022.

(2) The Competent Authority shall issue the certificates of proficiency or supporting documents required for the performance of the service on board, as described in the Regulations of Chapters V and VI of the STCW Annex, provided that all the conditions required for in this Law are met and the prescribed fee is paid.

14 of 139(I)/2022.

(3) The certificates, which are issued in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1), shall be drafted in one of the official languages of the Republic, and in the English language and the required information shall be provided in roman characters and Arabic figures. The certificates shall be delivered to the person entitled to hold them and shall contain the following information:

- (a) Serial Number of certificate;

- (b) Seafarer's registration number;
 - (c) Functional duties, level, capacity and limitations, if any;
 - (d) Name, surname, and date of birth;
 - (e) Any other necessary information;
- 28(b) of 10(I)/2017.*
- (f) Date of issue/ expiration;
 - (g) Signature of the seafarer;
 - (h) Photograph of the seafarer.
- 14(6) of 139(I)/2022.*
- (4) By decision of the Deputy Minister, which is published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, the certificates of competence issued pursuant to subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section, their validation of endorsements, certificates of proficiency and supporting documents may issued only in digital form.
- Validity of certificates and endorsements.*
- 40.** Certificates and endorsements issued in accordance with the requirements of section 27 shall remain valid only as long as the holder can comply with the minimum required standards and conditions, which are provided by this Law and STCW Convention.
- Certificates Register.*
- 41.-(1)** All certificates issued under this Part of the Law shall be recorded in a Register kept for this reason.
- 2(b) of 139(I)/2022.*
- (2) The abovementioned Register shall be kept, in a manner prescribed by the Competent Authority, at the Shipping Deputy Ministry.
- (3) In the Register shall also be recorded , in accordance with the provisions of this Part of the Law, all the endorsements, all the certificates which have expired or have been revalidated, suspended, cancelled or reported lost or destroyed and any alteration of any other matters affecting any such certificate, endorsement or documentary evidence .
- (4) The Competent Authority is obliged to make available, as far as the legal status of the dispensations of section 7 of this Law is concerned, information on the status of such certificates, endorsements and dispensations to other member states or other Parties to STCW Convention and to Companies which request verification of the authenticity and validity of certificates produced to them by seafarers seeking recognition of their certificates or employment on board any ship.

*Loss or
destruction
of certificates.*

42.-(1) In case of loss, damage or wear and tear of a certificate, the person entitled by law to the certificate may request its replacement.

(2) Together with the application the person entitled by law shall submit an affidavit as to the circumstances of loss, damage or wear and tear of certificate or documentary evidence, two photographs and any prescribed fee due.

(3) The Competent Authority, if it considers the request for replacement justified, shall issue a true copy of the original certificate and deliver it to the person entitled to hold it. The issue of the true copy shall be recorded in the above mentioned Register.

*Endorsement
of certificates.*

43.-(1) The certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of this Part shall be endorsed by the Competent Authority in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Convention, provided that the Competent Authority is satisfied that the holder of the certificate satisfies all the minimum mandatory requirements provided by this Law. The endorsement shall be recorded in the Register.

29(a) of 10(I)/2017.

(2) The endorsements of the certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of this Part, for masters, officers and GMDSS radio operators, are incorporated in the type of the certificates described in the provisions of PART A-I/2 of the STCW Code.

29(b) of 10(I)/2017.

(3) The endorsements of the certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of this Part, for masters, officers and GMDSS radio operators, are issued in accordance with the Article VI, paragraph 2, of the STCW Convention.

*Revalidation
of certificates
of competency and
certificates
of proficiency.
30(a) of 10(I)/2017.*

44.-(1) The certificates of the masters or officers and radio operators issued in accordance with the provisions of this Part or which are recognized as equivalent in accordance with the provisions of Part VIII of this Law, shall not be valid for sea service unless they are revalidated and extended at intervals not exceeding 5 years. For the revalidation and extension of the above mentioned certificates the holders must

(a) be in possession of the medical fitness certificate which verifies their mental and physical fitness; and

(b) establish continued professional competence in accordance with the provisions of Part A-I/11 of the STCW Code.

30(b) of 10(I)/2017.

(2) The Competent Authority shall, in consultation with those concerned, formulate or promote the formulation of a structure of refresher and updating courses as provided for in Part A-I/11 of the STCW Code.

(3) For the purpose of updating the knowledge of masters, officers and radio operators, the Competent Authority shall ensure that the texts of recent amendments in national and international regulations concerning the safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment are made available to ships flying the Cyprus flag.

30(c) of 10(I)/2017. (4) The certificates issued by virtue of the provisions of subsection (3) of section 12, subsection (3) of section 13, subsection (2) of section 15 and subsection (2) of section 16, shall be validated, provided their holders are still serving at the Cyprus Port & Marine Police.

5 of 116(I)/2023. (5) Every master and officer of a ship sailing in polar waters, in order to continue seagoing service, meet the requirements of subsection (1) and is required, at intervals not exceeding five (5) years, to establish continued professional competence for ships sailing in polar waters, in accordance with Section A-I/11, paragraph 4 of the STCW Code.

Decline of the application for the issue or revalidation of certificate.

45.-(1) The Competent Authority may decline the application for the issue or recognition or revalidation and extension of the validity of a certificate, irrespective of whether the applicant satisfies all the requirements provided for in this Law, if, taking into consideration all the relevant circumstances, it judges that the applicant is not a fit person to be holder of the certificate and to act in the capacity to which it relates.

(2) The decision of the Competent Authority declining the application shall be delivered in writing and with adequate reasoning to the applicant who shall have the right, within a time-limit of 45 days to require the conducting of an inquiry and of a review of the application.

15 of 139(I)/2022.

(3) The investigation is conducted by two (2) surveyors of the Deputy Ministry of Shipping, who are appointed by the Permanent Secretary and submit a report of their findings to the Competent Authority, which decides on the application for revalidation.

Issue of certificates of competency to seafarers holders of foreign certificates of competency. 31 of 10(I)/2017.

46.- (1) Seafarers, who hold certificates of competency of any rank of officer, issued by a foreign country and recognized by the Republic, may, if they so wish, participate in a program for a certificate which is immediately above that they currently hold, provided that they have total sea service equal to the sea service required by this Law for the relevant certificate:

16 of 139(I)/2022

Provided that, seafarers who have obtained a certificate of competency as an officer in charge of a navigational watch or an officer in charge of an engineering watch, after studying at a maritime training center that is not

recognised by the country in which it operates, they are not entitled to participate in the above programme.

(2) Permanent Cyprus residents, who have graduated successfully from a Merchant Marine Academy which forms a part of the public education of a Member State and were signed on as merchant marine trainee officers on board a Cyprus ship (Cyprus flag vessel) of at least 500 gross tonnage, for at least three months period, are entitled to submit an application to the Competent Authority to obtain the certificate of competency of officer in charge of a navigational watch or of officer in charge of an engineering watch.

PART VII CERTIFICATES OF MASTER OF COASTAL PASSENGER VESSELS

*Certificate of
master of coastal
passenger vessels.*

47.-(1) Any candidate for the certificate of master of coastal passenger vessels must :

32(a) of 10(I)/2017.

(a) be not less than 21 years of age; and

(b) have a medical fitness report which indicates that the candidate is physically and mentally fit for the respective maritime service for the requested certificate; and

(c) have successfully completed an approved specialized training program which meets the standards of the requested certificate; and

*17(a)(i) of
139(I)/2022.*

(d) have sea service of not less than eighteen months, approved to the Competent Authority:

*17(a)(i) of
139(I)/2022.*

Provided that, the maritime service can be reduced to twelve (12) months if the candidate performs six months of service as a cadet master of a coastal passenger vessel, under conditions determined by the Competent Authority in its circular.

32(b) of 10(I)/2017.

(e) have a certificate of basic training issued in accordance with PART A-VI/1, paragraph 2, of the STCW Code from the Republic or from other countries whose the certificates of competency issued in accordance with the STCW Convention, are recognized by the Republic;

*17(a)(ii) of
139(I)/2022.*

(f) comply with the provisions of section 6 of Pancyprian Exams for Admission to High and Higher Institutions of Cyprus and Greece Laws, regarding high school graduates in the Republic or abroad;

- 17(a)(ii) of 39(I)/2022.* (g) hold a medical fitness certificate on board a vessel issued in accordance with the standards of competence specified in Section A-VI/4 , paragraph 1 to 3 of the STCW Code:
- 17(a)(ii) of 139(I)/2022* Provided that, holders of a certificate of master of a coastal passenger vessel issued before the date of commencement of the Merchant Shipping (Issue and Recognition of Certificates and Marine Training) (Amending) Law of 2022, must obtain a certificate of proficiency in providing medical first aid on board until 31 December 2024.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the candidate for the certificate of master of coastal passenger vessel of less than 12 meters must:
- (a) fulfill the requirements of subsection (1)(a) and (b); and
- (b) hold a high speed small vessel operator’s licence in accordance with the national legislation; and
- 32(c) of 10(I)/2017.* (c) hold a basic training certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of PART A-VI/1, paragraph 2, of the STCW Code, from the Republic or from countries whose the certificates of competency issued in accordance with the STCW Convention ,are recognized by the Republic; and
- 32(d) of 10(I)/2017. 2(b) of 139(I)/2022.* (d) have succeeded in a practical examination performed by two marine surveyors of the Shipping Deputy Ministry.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2), the Competent Authority may provide a certificate of master of coastal passenger vessels, to holders of a certificate of competency of officer in charge of a navigational watch which has been issued by the Republic or by countries whose said certificates of competency are recognized by the Republic.
- 17(b) of 139(I)/2022.*
- 17(b) of 139(I)/2022.*
- 17(c) of 139(I)/2022.* (4) The validity of the certificate of master of a coastal passenger vessel shall not exceed five (5) years, commencing either from the date on which the applicant completed the training required by the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) or from the date of expiry of certificate of competence referred to in the provisions of subsection (3).
- 17(c) of 139(I)/2022.* (5) The provisions of subsections (1), (2) and (3) of section 44 shall apply to the revalidation and extension of the validity of the certificate of master of a coastal passenger vessel.

Application of Regulation VI/1 of the STCW Annex. 33 of 10(I)/2017.

47A. All the crew members of coastal passenger vessel having duties relevant to the security of the passengers, must fulfil the requirements of Regulation VI/1 of the STCW Annex.³

PART VIII

34 of 10(I)/2017.

RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AND CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY ISSUED BY ANOTHER STATE WHICH IS A PARTY TO THE STCW CONVENTION

Recognition of certificates of competency and of proficiency issued by another Party. 35(a) (b) of 10(I)/2017.

48 .-(1) The Competent Authority may give permission to a seafarer who does not hold a certificate of competency or a certificate of proficiency issued by a Member State for masters and officers in accordance with PARTS V/1-1 and V/1-2 of the STCW Code, to serve on board a Cyprus ship (vessel flying the flag of Cyprus), provided there is a decision for the recognition of the certificates of competency and of proficiency, through the procedures described in paragraphs 2 to 6 of article 19 of Directive 2008/106/EC.

35(c) of 10(I)/2017.

(2) Where the Competent Authority recognizes a certificate pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, in respect of a master, officer or GMDSS radio operator, it shall endorse such a certificate in order to attest its recognition, if its satisfied that there has been compliance with the requirements of the STCW Convention, and that any prescribed fee has been paid.

35(d) of 10(I)/2017.

(3) (a) The Competent Authority recognizes and endorses certificates of competency and/or of proficiency issued by another Member State in accordance with Directive 2008/106/EC, provided the prescribed fee has been paid.

35(e) of 10(I)/2017.

(b) The recognition of the certificates mentioned in subsection (2) is limited on skills, duties and the competence levels accompanied by them and are linked with an endorsement confirming said recognition.

6 of 116(I)/2023.

(c) The Competent Authority accepts certificates of proficiency and documentary evidence issued by another Member State, or under its authority, in hard copy or in digital format, for the purpose of allowing seafarers to serve on ships flying Cyprus flag.

18 of 139(I)/2022.

(4) The endorsement shall be done in accordance with Regulation I/2 of the STCW Convention, in the form of a separate document, entitled "ENDORSEMENT CONFIRMING THE RECOGNITION OF A CERTIFICATE":

³ Consolidation Note: Section 47A entered into force as from **1st January 2018** , by virtue of section 39(2) of Amendment Law 10(I)/2017,

- 18 of 139(I)/2022. Provided that, by decision of the Deputy Minister which is published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, the validation of endorsements may only be issued in digital form.
- 35(f) of 10(I)/2017. (5) The Competent Authority may, if the circumstances so require, allow a seafarer to serve for a period not exceeding three months on board a Cyprus ship, as long as he holds a valid certificate issued and endorsed as required by another State Party in which the STCW Convention has been put in force, for use on board that Party's ships but which has not yet been endorsed.
- 35(g) of 10(I)/2017. (6) The Competent Authority must ensure that seafarers who present, for recognition, certificates issued under the provisions of Regulations II/2, III/2 or III/3, or issued under Regulation VII/1 of the STCW Annex, at the management level, as defined in the STCW Code, have an appropriate knowledge of the national legislation, relevant to the tasks they are permitted to perform.
- (7) In case the Competent Authority revokes the endorsement of the recognition of a certificate which it has recognized, due to disciplinary or other reasons, it must notify in writing the state Party of the STCW Convention, wherein the relevant certificate was issued, stating the reasons which led to the revocation of the endorsement.
- 35(h) of 10(I)/2017. (8) The Competent Authority must communicate information and the measures agreed upon, according to the provisions of this section, to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization in conformity with the requirements of Regulation I/7 of the STCW Annex.
- 35(i) of 10(I)/2017. (9) In the cases where the Competent Authority is willing to recognize, with endorsement, the certificates referred to in section (1) to master, officer or GMDSS radio operator in order to serve on board vessels flying the Cyprus flag, which have been issued by a third country, for which country there is no decision issued through the procedures mentioned in paragraphs 2 to 6 of article 19 of Directive 2008/106/EC, it submits to the European Commission an application for recognition of said third country mentioning the reasons.
- Provided that, the Competent Authority may unilaterally recognize the third country until a decision is taken by the European Commission:
- Provided further that, in case of unilateral recognition, the Competent Authority communicates to the European Commission the number of endorsements attesting recognition issued in relation to certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency referred to in subsection (1), issued by the third country until the implementing act regarding the recognition of that third country is adopted.
- Prevention of fraud and other illegal practices.* 49.-(1) The Competent Authority takes the appropriate measures for the prevention of fraud and of other similar practices related to the procedure of

certification or certificates issued and endorsed by the Competent Authority.

- 2(b) of 139(I)/2022. (2) Competent Authority for the localization and fight of fraud and of other illegal practices and for the exchange of information with the competent authorities of other member states as well as other states in respect of the certification of the seafarers, is the Shipping Deputy Ministry.
- 2(b) of 139(I)/2022. (3) The Permanent Secretary must inform the Commission of the European Union, the rest Member States as well as every third country with which there is an agreement in accordance with the Regulation I/10, paragraph 1.2 of the STCW Convention, that for the purposes of said section, the Competent Authority is the Shipping Deputy Ministry.
- 2(b) of 139(I)/2022.

PART IX

MARITIME TRAINING AND RECOGNITION OF MARITIME TRAINING CENTERS

- Supervision of maritime training.* 50.-(1) The training and assessment of seafarers, as required by the STCW Convention, shall be conducted under the supervision and monitoring of the Competent Authority in accordance with the provisions of Section A- I/6 of the STCW Code.
- 19 of 139(I)/2022. (2) The training of seafarers is provided only in recognized maritime training centers pursuant to the provisions of section 51, which provide educational programs approved by the Competent Authority.
- 19 of 139(I)/2022. (3)(a) The Competent Authority issues interpretive instructions to recognized training centers in relation to the following:
- (i) The structure and content of approved educational programs;
 - (ii) the required equipment and teaching means;
 - (iii) the conditions for enrolling seafarers in their programs;
 - (iv) their directed practical training on board; and
 - (v) the assessment of trainee seafarers.
- 19 of 139(I)/2022. (b) The Competent Authority, when drawing up the content of the training programs, may approve training programs based on a standard training manual approved by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO Model Course), which are mentioned in the STCW Convention, the SOLAS Convention and the MARPOL Convention and to issue the respective certificates.
- 36 of 10(I)/2017. (4) The Competent Authority issues a certificate to the recognized maritime training centers, where it is recorded the approved program, following the application of the training center and after the prescribed fees for the

certificate are paid.

The validity of the certificate is maximum five years. Alternatively, a certificate can be issued where all the approved training programs shall be recorded.

Recognition of maritime training centers.

51.-(1) For the recognition of a maritime training center and the approval of its training programs, a relevant application must be submitted by the center and shall include the following information:

- (a) The required entry qualifications of the candidates for the training programs;
- (b) The order of classes/lessons and for each class/lesson schedule;
- (c) Description of the premises, the facilities and of the equipment used for the training program;
- (d) Qualifications of all the persons in charge of the training and the assessment of the trainees;
- (e) Maximum number of trainees and ratio of trainers/assessors/equipment/trainees;
- (f) Description of the quality standards system applied for supervision of the training, assessment and certification of trainees;
- (g) Procedure, type and purpose of examination;
- (h) Procedure, type and scope of evaluation;
- (i) Minimum standard of competency to be achieved for the issue of evidence in proof of successful attendance;
- (j) Specimen of evidence of successful attendance.
- (k) Articles of Association of the Company;
- (l) Official List of Directors;
- (m) Official List of Shareholders;

37(a) of 10(l)/2017.

37(a) of 10(l)/2017.

37(a) of 10(l)/2017.

(2) Those responsible for the training and assessment of competence of seafarers, must be appropriately qualified in accordance with the provisions of

section A-I/6 of the STCW Code for the type and level of training or assessment involved.

(3) The training, assessment of competence and issue of evidence of successful attendance, carried out, are continuously monitored through a quality standards system to ensure achievement of defined objectives, including those concerning the qualifications and experience of instructors and assessors in accordance with the provisions of Part A-I/8 of the STCW Code.

(4) An evaluation is periodically undertaken at the maritime training centres, in accordance with the provisions of Part A-I/8 of the STCW Code by qualified persons who are not themselves involved in the activities concerned.

(5) With respect to the use of simulators by a maritime training center , the performance standards and other provisions set out in Part A-I/12 of the STCW Code and such other requirements as are prescribed in Part A of the STCW Code for any certificate concerned shall be complied with in respect of-

- (a) all mandatory simulator-based training; and
- (b) any assessment of competence required by Part A of the STCW Code which is carried out by means of a simulator; and
- (c) any demonstration, by means of a simulator, of continued proficiency required by Part A of the STCW Code.

37(b) of 10(I)/2017.

Inspection of maritime training centers.

52.-(1) An officer designated by the Competent Authority, shall draft a relevant report following survey of the training facilities, equipment, and the procedures followed for a training program for verifying compliance with above requirements.

2(a) of 139(I)/2022.

(2) The said report, together with all the information submitted by the maritime training center shall be examined by a three-member committee, out of the specialists in each case composed by decision of the Deputy Minister, and which shall decide for the approval of the proposed training program.

Monitoring of training programs.

53.-(1) The Competent Authority shall be responsible to control the carrying out of training programs over a five-year period or whenever it deems necessary, in accordance with the provisions of Part A-I/8 of the STCW Code. The information relating to the evaluation must be communicated to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization.

(2) The maritime training center must forward to the Competent Authority until the commencement day of each training program, a list of the candidates.

(3) The maritime training center must forward to the Competent Authority a list of all the candidates that successfully completed a training program immediately after the completion of the training program accompanied with a detailed grades report.

(4) The maritime training center shall ensure the following:-

- (a) all training and assessment of seafarers is-
 - (i) structured in accordance with the written programs, including such methods and tutorial means, procedures and course material as are necessary to achieve the prescribed standard of competence; and
 - (ii) conducted, monitored, evaluated and supported by persons qualified in accordance with paragraphs (d), (e) and (f);
- (b) persons conducting in-service training or assessment on board a ship do so only when such training or assessment will not adversely affect the normal operation of the ship and they can dedicate their time and attention to training or assessment;
- (c) instructors, supervisors and assessors are appropriately qualified for the particular types and levels of training or assessment of competence of seafarers either on board or ashore;
- (d) any person conducting in-service training of a seafarer, either on board or ashore, which is intended to obtain the qualifications for certification under the present Law-
 - (i) has an appreciation of the training programme and an understanding of the specific training objectives for the particular type of training being conducted; and
 - (ii) is qualified in the task for which training is being conducted; and
 - (iii) if conducting training using a simulator-
 - (aa) has received appropriate guidance in instructional techniques involving the use of simulators; and
 - (bb) has acquired practical operational experience on the particular type or simulator being used;
- (e) any person responsible for the supervision of the in-service

training of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification has a full understanding of the training programme and the specific objectives for each type of training being conducted;

- (f) any person conducting in-service assessment of the competence of a seafarer, either on board or ashore, which is intended to be used in qualifying for certification-
 - (i) has an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of the competence to be assessed;
 - (ii) is qualified in the task for which the assessment is being made;
 - (iii) has received appropriate guidance in assessment methods and practice;
 - (iv) has gained practical assessment experience; and
 - (v) if conducting assessment involving the use of simulators, has gained practical assessment experience on the particular type of simulator under the supervision and to the satisfaction of an experienced assessor.

(5) The maritime training center must give prompt notification to the Competent Authority, of any significant changes in the training schedule, the qualifications of the candidates, the equipment, the qualifications of the persons in charge of the training and the assessment of the seafarers and the quality standards.

Periodical evaluation.

54. The Competent Authority shall ensure that periodical evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Part A-I/8 of the STCW Code, in time periods which do not exceed five years, by qualified persons which are not involved in the said activities and the relevant information will be communicated to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization and to the Commission of the European Union within six months of conducting such an evaluation.

*Penalties.
38 of 10(I)/2017.*

54A.- (1) The Competent Authority may suspend or cancel the recognition of the maritime training center or suspend the approval of the training program , since it is found that terms of operation are violated in respect of the compliance with training standards required by Law. The suspension period should not be longer than 12 months.

2(a) of 139(I)/2022.

(2) The person who according to the Articles of Association of the company is bound with its signature, has the right to file an hierarchical recourse with the Deputy Minister, against the decision of cancelation or suspension of the recognition of the maritime training center or against the decision of

suspension of the approval of the training program, within thirty days from the date of notification of the decision by the Competent Authority.

(3) The hierarchical recourse according to subsection (2), does not suspend the execution of the decision.

2(a) of 139(I)/2022. (4) The Deputy Minister shall examine the hierarchical recourse and shall, after having heard the interested parties or having given them an opportunity to express their views in writing, issue a decision on the recourse pursuant to subsection (5) of this section, not later than ten days.

2(a) of 139(I)/2022. (5) The Deputy Minister may decide on of the following –

- (a) to confirm the challenged decision; or
- (b) to declare the challenged decision null and void; or
- (c) to amend the challenged decision; or
- (d) to issue a new decision in substitution for the challenged decision.

*Criminal offense
20 of 139(I)/2022.* **54B.-** A person who operates a maritime training center without recognition by the Competent Authority, in contravention to the provisions of subsection (2) of section 50, is guilty of an offense and in case of conviction is subject to an imprisonment for a period not exceeding two (2) years or a fine not exceeding twenty thousand euro (€20,000) or both of these sentences.

PART X FINAL PROVISIONS

Inspection of non-Cyprus ships. **55.** In case of vessels of third countries, vessels mentioned in sections 3(1)(a), (b), (c) and (d) are excluded, are in ports of the Republic, the Competent Authority shall take all necessary measures to ensure that ships which have masters, officers or ratings holding certificates which have not been recognized in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2001/25/EC, are inspected as a matter of priority, to check whether the level of training and competence meet the standards laid down in the STCW Convention and in the case where the vessel flies the flag of a Member State, the standards laid down in Directive 2001/25/EC.

Making of Regulations. **56.-**(1) The Council of Ministers has the power to make Regulations in order to regulate any matter which under this Law, needs or is capable of receiving regulation.

(2) The publication of Regulations by virtue of this section is not a prerequisite for the application of said Law.

Repeal of **57.** *The Merchant Shipping (Issue and Recognition of Certificates and Marine*

Laws. *Training) Laws of 2000 to 2005 are repealed.*

*109(I) of 2000
168(I) of 2004
56(I) of 2005.*

*Transitional
Provision.
21 of 139(I)/2022.*

58. The provisions of section 54B do not apply to a person who operates a maritime training center for which he has submitted an application for recognition and approval of the training programs by the Competent Authority before the date of entry into force of the Merchant Shipping (Issue and Recognition of Certificates and Marine Training) (Amending) Law of 2022, until the Competent Authority decides on the said application.

*Information to
the European
Commission.
7 of 116(I)/2023.*

59. The Competent Authority submits to the European Commission, on a yearly basis, the information listed in Annex V to Directive 2008/106/EC on certificates of competency and endorsements attesting the recognition of certificates of competency.

SDM Version January 2024