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STCW.7/Circ.17
24 May 2011

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

**Advice for port State control officers on transitional arrangements leading up to the
full implementation of the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the
STCW Convention and Code on 1 January 2017**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 2011), noted the need for some clarifications on 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 their imminent entry into force, on 1 January 2012.

2 The Committee noted that the amended requirements of chapter VIII come into force on 1 January 2012. However, some aspects of seafarer training, for example, Engine-room Resource Management (ERM) or Bridge Resource Management (BRM), are not required to be completed until 1 January 2017.

3 The Committee was particularly concerned that, close to the entry into force date of 1 January 2012, there may be practical difficulties for all seafarers with security related requirements to obtain necessary certifications and/or the necessary endorsements required in accordance with regulation VI/6 of the 2010 Manila Amendments. In this context, the Committee noted that transitional provisions under section A-VI/6 provide, until 1 January 2014, for the recognition of seafarers who commenced an approved seagoing service prior to 1 January 2012.

4 The Committee urged Parties and Companies to ensure that the necessary training and certification of seafarers for full compliance with the 2010 Manila Amendments is commenced as soon as possible.

5 The Committee recommended that Administrations should inform their port State control authorities that, until 1 January 2014, even if a seafarer's documentation with regard to the security-related training in regulation VI/6 is not in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments, it would be sufficient to accept compliance with section 13 of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

6 The Committee agreed that:

- .1 for seafarers holding certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 1 January 2012 and who **have not met** the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments, the validity of any revalidated certificate should not extend beyond 1 January 2017;

- .2 for seafarers holding certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 1 January 2012 who **have met** the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments, the validity of any revalidated certificate can extend beyond 1 January 2017;
- .3 for seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course **before 1 July 2013**, the validity of any certificate issued should not extend beyond 1 January 2017, unless they meet the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments; and
- .4 for seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course **after 1 July 2013** the validity of any certificate issued may extend beyond 1 January 2017.

7 Noting that table B-I/2 contains a list of certificates or documentary evidence required under the relevant provisions of the Convention, the Committee recommends that Administrations should take into account that the certificates or documentary evidence under the 2010 Manila Amendments have changed in respect of contents and title. Administrations may issue certificates or documentary evidence under the provisions of the 1995 STCW Amendments with a validity that should not extend beyond 1 January 2017 or new certificates under the provisions of the 2010 Manila Amendments, as appropriate.

8 As the medical requirements under regulation I/9 were significantly changed under the 2010 Manila Amendments, the Committee agreed that regulation I/15 was also applicable to medical certificates issued under regulation I/9 and, therefore, medical certificates issued in accordance with the 1995 STCW Amendments should not have a validity that extends beyond 1 January 2017. Accordingly, Administrations may continue to issue medical certificates under the 1995 STCW Amendments until 1 January 2017 or new certificates under the provisions of the 2010 Manila Amendments, as appropriate.

9 The Committee recommended that for seafarers' certificates that have expiry dates beyond 1 January 2017, port State control authorities should accept the certificate issued as *prima facie* evidence that the seafarer had met the standard of competence required by the 2010 Manila Amendments in accordance with the control provisions of article X and regulation I/4.

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 when exercising control under the provisions of article X and regulation I/4.
