



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

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FOR: Owners, Managers, Operators, Skipper, Officers, Classification Societies and Port State Inspectors

SUBJECT: MINIMUM SAFE MANNING SCALE FOR FISHING VESSELS

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "COC" – A Certificate of Competence which is issued in compliance with the provisions of the STCW-F Convention
- "COE" – Certificate of Endorsement issued in recognition of a STCW-F certificate issued by a ratifying party
- "GMDSS" – Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
- "STCW-F" – International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995, as amended

The term "Administration" shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

CONTENTS:

1. General Requirements

- 1.1. Although Tuvalu is not a party to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (STCW-F), as amended, compliance with the provisions of the convention is mandatory.
- 1.2. Fishing vessels registered with Tuvalu shall be manned by fishing vessel personnel certificated in accordance with the STCW-F and our minimum safe manning requirements.
- 1.3. All fishing vessels shall carry a Minimum Safe Manning Certificate issued by the Administration. The minimum safe manning of a fishing vessel is a function of the number of qualified and experienced fishing vessel personnel necessary for the safety and security of the vessel, personnel, catch, property, and protection of the marine environment, and may be decided by the length of vessel, power of propulsion units, trading area, and applicable work and rest hours.
- 1.4. All officers certified by foreign maritime authorities are required to be issued with a Certificate of Endorsement (COE) by the Administration unless specifically exempted. Ratings are not required to apply for COE.

2. Principles of Minimum Safe Manning

- 2.1. The minimum safe manning of the vessel shall observe IMO Resolution A.1047 (27) "Principles of Minimum Safe Manning", as amended, in ensuring that the vessel is sufficiently, effectively and efficiently manned for the safety and security of the vessel, safe navigation and operations at sea, safe operations in port, prevention of human injury or loss of life, the avoidance of damage to the marine environment and to property, and the welfare and health of seafarers through the avoidance of fatigue.
- 2.2. All crew working on board shall comply with the hours of work and hours of rest in accordance with the requirements of STCW-F, taking into account principles outlined in IMO Guidelines On Fatigue (MSC.1/Circ. 1598), as amended.

3. Minimum Safe Manning Requirements

The following tables show the minimum safe manning requirements for fishing vessels. The Administration may grant reductions or deviations in the manning requirements where the proposed reductions / deviations have been reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis subject to restriction to its voyage or other conditions imposed, to ensure at least the same level of safety of the vessel is maintained.

3.1. Deck Officers and Ratings

Length of Vessel	Voyage	Minimum qualified Deck Officers & Ratings		
		Skipper	OOW Navigation	Deck Watch Rating
24 metres & over	Unlimited	1(a)	1(b)	2(e)
	Limited	1(c)	1(d)	2(e)
Less than 24 metres	Unlimited	1(a)	1(b)	1(e)
	Limited	1(c)	1(d)	1(e)

Certificate of Competency (COC):

- (a) COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 1 (Skippers on fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over operating in unlimited waters)
- (b) COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 2 (Officers in charge of a navigational watch on fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over operating in unlimited waters)
- (c) COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 3 (Skippers on fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over operating in limited waters)
- (d) COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 4 (Officers in charge of a navigational watch on fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over operating in limited waters)
- (e) Certification of Ratings forming part of a navigational watch under STCW-F Chapter IV Regulation 2

3.2. Engineers Officers and Ratings

Propulsion Power	Minimum qualified Engineer Officers & Ratings			
	Chief Engineer	Second Engineer	OOW Engineer	Engine Watch Rating
3,000 kW or more	1(a)	1(b)	1(e)	2(f)
750 kW to 3,000 kW	1(c)	1(d)	1(e)	1(f)
Less than 750 kW	-	1(d)	1(e)	1(f)

Certificate of Competency (COC):

- (a) COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 5-1-1 (Chief Engineer Officers on fishing vessels powered by main propulsion machinery of 3,000 kW propulsion power or more)
- (b) COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 5-1-1 (Second Engineer Officers on fishing vessels powered by main propulsion machinery of 3,000 kW propulsion power or more)
- (c) COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 5-1-2 (Chief Engineer Officers on fishing vessels powered by main propulsion machinery of between 750 kW to 3,000 kW propulsion power)
- (d) COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 5-1-2 (Second Engineer Officers on fishing vessels powered by main propulsion machinery of between 750 kW to 3,000 kW propulsion power)

- (e) COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 5-2 (OOW Engineer Officer on fishing vessels powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more)
- (f) Engine Ratings forming part of an engineering watch under STCW-F Chapter IV Regulation 2

3.3. Minimum requirements for radio personnel (Fishing vessels above 300GT)

A1 & A2	At least 1 Radio Operator with GMDSS COC under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 6
A3 & A4	At least 2 Radio Operators with GMDSS COC or 1 dedicated Radio Operator under STCW-F Chapter II Regulation 6

Yours sincerely

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry