



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-4/2016/1

11/2016

FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Classification Societies

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE MINIMUM SAFE MANNING CERTIFICATE

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- “COC” – A Certificate of Competence which is issued in compliance with the provisions of the STCW Convention
- “COE” – Certificate of Endorsement issued in recognition of a STCW Certificate issued by a country on the IMO “White List”
- “ETO” – Electro-Technical Officer
- “ETR” – Electro-Technical Rating
- “MSMC” – Minimum Safe Manning Certificate
- “PSC” – Port State Control
- “STCW” – International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended

The term “Administration” shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this marine circular is to inform ship owners / operators of the latest changes that the Administration will be rolling out for the MSMC in view of the STCW 2010 Manila amendments coming into full effect on 1 January 2017.

REFERENCES:

- (a) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-2/2006/07/09/10/12/5

APPLICATION:

This marine circular applies to all Tuvalu flagged vessels holding a Tuvalu MSMC.

CONTENTS:

1. General

- 1.1. The Manila amendments to the STCW Convention and Code were adopted on 25 June 2010 and entered into force on 1 January 2012. A 5 year transitional arrangement was provided up till 1 January 2017 for full implementation of 2010 Manila Amendments.
- 1.2. The provisions on the certification requirements for the new grades of Able Seafarer Deck and Able Seafarer Engine are applicable from 1 January 2017, thereafter requiring all seafarers to comply with the mandatory minimum requirements for able seafarer in accordance with the STCW Chapter II Regulation II/5 for Able Seafarer Deck and Chapter III Regulation III/5 for Able

Seafarer Engine. This change shall be reflected in new MSMC's issued by this Administration after 1 January 2017.

- 1.3. Similarly, new competency standards and certification for ETO and ETR have been provided in the new provisions as stipulated in STCW Chapter III Regulation III/6 and III/7 respectively. All ETOs and ETRs shall be certificated according to para 1.2 above before they are allowed to serve on board Tuvalu-flagged vessels from 1 January 2017.
- 1.4. ETOs holding a COC issued by another administration will be required to apply for a Tuvalu COE prior to working on board a Tuvalu-flagged vessel.
- 1.5. ETOs and ETRs are not reflected on the MSMCs issued by this Administration as they are not mandatorily required in the minimum safe manning requirements (*refer to reference (a) for Tuvalu's Minimum Safe Manning Scale*).

2. Implementation of the changes on the MSMC format

- 2.1. For new vessels registered after 1 January 2017, the MSMCs issued by this Administration shall reflect the changes mentioned in para 1.2 above.
- 2.2. For existing vessels, the Administration shall replace the MSMCs during the annual renewal of the vessels after 1 January 2017. Based on this schedule of replacement, all Tuvalu-flagged vessels holding a MSMC shall have their MSMC replaced by 31 December 2017. The replacement process should not cause any delay to the vessel's operations.
- 2.3. This Administration recommends that ship owners / operators place a copy of this marine circular on board to inform PSC authorities that all existing MSMCs held by Tuvalu-flagged vessels shall remain valid while the transitional measures are implemented to have all Tuvalu-flagged vessels hold the MSMC with the latest changes (as per para 1.2 above) by 31 December 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry