

	STCW CIRCULAR 2012-003 (rev 2)		
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)		
	Transitional provisions relating to the 2010 STCW Amendments	Ref	STCW,78 Reg. I/15 STCW.7/Circ 16. STCW.7/Circ.17. ISPS Code. Sect. 13

**Companies operating ships registered in Antigua and Barbuda,
Ships registered under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda,
Authorised Filing Agents.**

This Circular was originally issued as Circular 01-003-2012, it is republished under this number with minor editorial amendments.

The Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) wishes to draw attention to Regulation I/15 (Transitional Provisions) as they relate to the 2010 Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code.

1. **Issue and revalidation of certificates and endorsements issued in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 01 January 2012.**
 - a. Until 01 January 2017 ADOMS will continue to revalidate endorsements in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 01 January 2012.
 - b. In order to promote uniform implementation of the 2010 Amendments until its full compliance as of 01 January 2017, Reg. I/15 should be applied as follows:
 - i. For seafarers holding certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 01 January 2012 and who **have not met** the requirements of the 2010 Amendments, the validity of any revalidated certificate **will not extend** beyond 01 January 2017;
 - ii. For seafarers holding certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 01 January 2012 and who **have met** the requirements of the 2010 Amendments, the validity of any revalidated certificate can extend beyond 01 January 2017;
 - iii. For seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course **before 01 July 2013**, the validity of any certificate issued **will not extend** beyond 01 January 2017, unless the holders meet the requirements of the 2010 Amendments; and

- iv. For seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course **after 01 July 2013**, the validity of any certificate issued can extend beyond 01 January 2017.
 - c. Table B-I/2 of the STCW Code, as amended, contains a list of certificates or documentary evidence required under the relevant provisions of the Convention. Please note that the certificates or documentary evidence under the 2010 Amendments have changed in respect of contents and title. However, Administrations may issue certificates and documentary evidence under the provisions of the 1995 STCW amendments with a validity that should not extend beyond 01 January 2017 or new certificates under the provisions of the 2010 Amendments, as appropriate.
 - d. Reg. I/15 also applies to the medical certificates issued under Reg. I/9 (Medical Standards). The medical requirements were significantly changed by the 2010 Amendments. Therefore medical certificates issued in accordance with the 1995 STCW amendments will be accepted until their expiry after which they must be replaced by medical certificates that meet the new requirements.
- 2. Transitional provisions which do not relate to certification issues
 - a. Reg. I/15 applies to the certification of seafarers. Therefore, any amendments that do not directly involve certification of seafarers under Reg. I/15 should be implemented as of 01 January 2012.
 - b. The amended requirements of Chapter VIII (Standards regarding watchkeeping) will come into force on 01 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 01 January 2017.
- 3. Security-related training provisions.
 - a. Acknowledging the close entry into force date of the 2010 Amendments, practical difficulties may arise for all seafarers with security-related requirements in obtaining the necessary certificates and/or the necessary endorsements required in accordance with Reg. VI/6 of the 2010 Amendments. Transitional provisions under Section A-VI/6 provide for the recognition of the training of seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service prior to 01 January 2012 as valid until 01 January 2014. But after 1st January 2014 full compliance with the requirements of Section A-VI/6 is required.

- b. Seafarers who have joined ships before 1st January 2014 and who will be serving on board after 1st January 2014, and who have not been able to attend an approved security awareness training course or the approved training for seafarers with designated security duties in accordance with STCW Section A-VI/6.4 or STCW Section A-VI6.6 prior to joining will not be in possession of documentation showing attendance at an “approved” course. Courses in some countries have not yet been approved by the respective competent authorities.

For these seafarers, and until courses are approved in their country of origin, ADOMS will accept documentary evidence of attendance at any security awareness course that covers the subject material in STCW Table A-VI/6-1 or Table A-VI/6-2 as appropriate even though the course may not yet be “approved” by the administration in the country of origin. On completion of their contracts these seafarers must complete the approved training before engaging another contract.

Owners and Managers are urged to ensure that the 2010 amendments are implemented as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition to full compliance prior to 01 January 2017 and 1st January 2014 for the security training elements.

October 2013.