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MARINE CIRCULAR

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FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Classification Societies, Flag State Inspectors

SUBJECT: STCW AMENDMENTS COMING INTO FORCE ON 1 JANUARY 2012

PURPOSE:

This Marine Circular is to notify the shipping community of the major revisions to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) that has been adopted at a Diplomatic Conference in Manila, the Philippines that was held from 21 to 25 June 2010 under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), thereby ensuring that the necessary global standards will be in place to train and certify seafarers to operate technologically advanced ships for some time to come.

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The amendments, to be known as "The Manila amendments to the STCW Convention and Code" are set to enter into force on 1 January 2012 under the tacit acceptance procedure and are aimed at bringing the Convention and Code up to date with developments since they were initially adopted in 1978 and further revised in 1995; and to enable them to address issues that are anticipated to emerge in the foreseeable future.

Amongst the amendments adopted, there are a number of important changes to each chapter of the Convention and Code, including:

- Improved measures to prevent fraudulent practices associated with certificates of competency and strengthen the evaluation process (monitoring of Parties' compliance with the Convention);
- Revised requirements on hours of work and rest and new requirements for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse, as well as updated standards relating to medical fitness standards for seafarers;
- New certification requirements for able seafarers - There is an addition of Able Seafarer-Deck Rating which is separate from Rating Forming Part of a Navigation Watch(RFPNW);
- New requirements relating to training in modern technology such as electronic charts and information systems (ECDIS);
- New requirements for marine environment awareness training and training in leadership and teamwork - At the operational and management level, the Bridge Resource Management, Teamwork and Leadership Training will be mandatory;
- New training and certification requirements for electro-technical officers - A new Electrical Technical Officer (ETO) and Electrical Technical Rating (ETR) will be added;
- Updating of competence requirements for personnel serving on board all types of tankers, including new requirements for personnel serving on liquefied gas tankers - Seafarers to update

their competence requirements with respect to serving on tankers which shall be categorized as Oil, Chemical and Liquid Gas Tankers;

- New requirements for security training related to ISPS Code, as well as provisions to ensure that seafarers are properly trained to cope if their ship comes under attack by pirates;
- Introduction of modern training methodology including distance learning and web-based learning;
- New training guidance for personnel serving on board ships operating in polar waters; and
- New training guidance for personnel operating Dynamic Positioning Systems.
- New requirements of Marine Environmental Awareness Issues;
- New requirements with respect to Refresher Safety Training;
- Harmonization with IMO MLC 2006 (which is expected to come into force)

There is a 5 year phase-in period for existing seafarers and requires amendments such as Work and Rest hours to be implemented from 1 January 2012 onwards.

The Appendixes relating to the subject are available for download and are listed below:

1. **Appendix 1** : STCW.7/Circ.17 - 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
2. **Appendix 2** : A Quick Guide for Seafarers on the “Manila Amendments” to the STCW Convention produced by the International Shipping Federation (ISF)

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry