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## **INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 129**

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### **STCW 2010 AMENDMENTS**

**Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations,  
Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers and  
Masters, Seafarers, duly authorised Manning Agents, Seafarers  
Recruitment & Placement Service Providers and Training Providers**

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#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The 2010 amendments of International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW) entered into force on 01st January 2012 with some transitional provisions applying from 01 January 2017 to 01 July 2017.
- 1.2. This Bulletin provides guidance on the implementation of the 2010 amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW) and the Seafarers Training, Certification and Watch-keeping Seafarers Code (STCW Code).
- 1.3. The Bulletin should be read in conjunction with BMA Information Bulletin nos. 81, 86, 103, 104, 106, 115, 118, 121, 124, 130, 142, 151, 153, 158, 162 and any other subsequent BMA Information Bulletins relating to training and certification of seafarers.

#### **2. Application and Interpretation**

- 2.1. This Bulletin applies to :
  - i. All Bahamian vessels with the exception of fishing vessels and non-commercial yachts,
  - ii. All persons serving or intending to serve on Bahamian ships to which training or instruction and certification is required in accordance with STCW.
  - iii. Companies employing, recruiting or selecting the seafarers noted above for service on board Bahamian ships

2.2. For the purpose of this Bulletin the following definitions apply:

- i. Approved training is training that satisfies the requirements of STCW Code A-V/3 and has been approved by The Bahamas or an STCW party.
- ii. *Company* is the entity who has accepted responsibility for the assignment of the seafarers for service on board Bahamian registered ships in accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/14. The "ISM Company", as defined below, shall report the full name and details of such entity (e.g. manning agents) to the Seafarers and Manning Department of the BMA. This notification, as well as any changes of the entity, shall be made either completing the 'Manning' section of the Bahamas form R104 or submitting a letter of declaration to that effect. (The letter shall be on the headed paper of the Registered Owner or Manager).
- iii. The *ISM Company* is the entity, designated under SOLAS Chapter IX/1.2 that assumes the duties and responsibilities imposed by the International Safety Management (ISM) Code.

### **3. Responsibilities**

#### **3.1 Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA)**

The BMA is the Administration in accordance with provisions of the STCW and accordingly remains responsible for:

- .ii Providing national requirements and appropriate guidance to ensure compliance with the STCW requirements,
- .iii ensuring that all applicable persons either onboard or intending to serve onboard a Bahamian registered vessel are issued with the relevant STCW documentation.
- .iv ensuring any training is duly approved,.
- .v developing an electronic database to enable verification of documents issued by the BMA.

### **3.2 Company<sup>1</sup> and master**

3.2.1 For The purpose of these requirements, the master is deemed to be the person in overall responsibility of the vessel.

3.2.2 The Company remains responsible for ensuring that the ship is manned in compliance with the Minimum Safe Manning Document by properly trained, qualified, certificated and medically fit seafarers. The Company must verify that the seafarer being assigned to the vessel have the required valid certification.

3.2.3 The master remains responsible for ensuring that all persons, prior to undertaking their assigned shipboard duties have valid medical fitness certificates and valid original certificates or documentary evidence of the required training to undertake their assigned tasks.

3.2.4 The Company and the master remain responsible for ensuring that an hours of rest schedule is provided on board.

3.2.5 The Company shall ensure that all seafarers are duly familiarised to undertake their assigned shipboard duties and records of such familiarisation training or instructions shall be maintained onboard.

### **3.3 Seafarer**

3.3.1 The seafarer remains responsible for ensuring that they have onboard the appropriate original documentary evidence of their training and qualification.

3.3.2 The seafarer should ensure that they comply with the hours of rest provisions in order to ensure that they are fit to undertake their shipboard duties.

## **4 Record of Sea Service**

4.1 Where required and where verification of competency is based on experience and/or training, the seafarer should maintain a record of sea service that includes:

- Name of person
- Vessel details: IMO No., Gross tonnage, Propulsion power
- Capacity or rank onboard
- Joining and leaving dates
- Voyage description.

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<sup>1</sup> Company is the entity responsible for the management of the ship in accordance with the ISM Code. For ships that are not required to comply with the ISM, Company is the entity as defined in STCW Convention Regulation I/1.23)

- 4.2 The information above should be recorded in a Seaman's Record Book (SRB) or discharge book or discharge certificates signed by the Master or Chief Engineer of the respective ships and bear the stamp of the affected ship. Guidance on Bahamas Seaman Record Book and Certificate of Discharge is contained in BMA Information Bulletin 107.
- 4.3 In the absence of a SRB, discharge book or discharge certificate, the Company may provide a letter containing the information of approved seagoing service specified in section 2.4.1. The letter should be on Company letterhead with full contact details and signed by the master or a responsible official of the Company.
- 4.4 In addition to the above, cadets, apprentices, new entrants or any applicants undergoing supervised training should ensure that any assigned tasks and or duties are approved by a certificated officer and recorded in an approved training record book.

## **5. Approved training**

- 5.1 Where there is a requirement for approved training for STCW Chapter V and VI, the training maybe approved and or accepted by the BMA in accordance with the guidance outlined in BMA Information Bulletin 86.
- 5.2 Training for ratings to satisfy the requirements of Chapter II and III of the 2010 amendments shall be approved by an STCW party.

## **6. Electronic database for Bahamas issued documents**

- 6.1 In accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/2.15, the BMA has developed an electronic system, Bahamas Online Registration Information System (BORIS) to enable the verification of the authenticity and validity of Certificate of Competency, Endorsements and Seaman Record Books issued by the BMA.
- 6.2 Parties seeking verification can access the site as follows:  
<https://public.bahamasmaritime.com> .
- 6.3 BORIS also enables registered users to securely apply for Bahamian documents and track the process of the application. Full details on this aspect of the system is contained in *BMA Information Bulletin 137*.

## **7. Application for STCW certification**

- 7.1 Applications for STCW certification shall be submitted taking into consideration the guidance outlined in BMA Information Bulletins 81, 86, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 115, 118, 121, 124 and the transitional provisions outlined in *section 3* above.
- 7.2 All parties should ensure that all the required supporting documentation, including valid medical fitness certificate, are submitted because the lack of supporting documentation is the most common reason for the delay in processing applications for seafarers' documents.
- 7.3 The approach outlined in 4.3, i.e. letter from the Company, may also be utilized where certification requires evidence of having served in a certain capacity or undertaking certain duties or function and this capacity, duty or function is not specified in the SRB, discharge book or discharge certificate. The letter may also be issued by the master subject to the letter bearing the stamp of the vessel.

## **8. Flag State Endorsement (STCW I/10)**

- 8.1 All parties should note that previously the BMA was only required to issue a documentary proof of application for a Flag State Endorsement of a Certificate of Competency.
- 8.2 Flag state Endorsement is also required for a Certificate of Proficiency issued to officers in accordance with STCW 2010 amendments Regulation V/1-1(Oil and Chemical Tankers advanced training) and V/1-2 (Liquefied Gas Tanker advanced training) subject to the transitional provisions in force until 01 July 2017. The BMA will issue a documentary proof of application for this application in accordance with this requirement.

## **9. Bahamas approach to IMO Guidance *Circular MSC.1/Circ.1560* relating to Seafarers who hold certificates and documents that do not comply with the STCW 2010 Amendments from 01 January – 01 July 2017**

- 9.1 All parties should note that MSC.1/Circ.1560 has been developed to address concerns raised relating to seafarers who have been trained, or are deemed to be compliant, in accordance with the STCW 2010 amendments but are experiencing delays in obtaining the appropriate certificates from the STCW issuing Administration.
- 9.2 The Bahamas approach to the implementation of the MSC Circular is outlined in *BMA Technical Alert no. 16-63*.

**10. Bahamas approach to IMO Guidance *STCW.7/Circ.24* on the requirements of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended**

- 10.1 The Bahamas fully endorses the guidance outlined and it is recommended that Companies maintain a copy of the Circular onboard their ships to facilitate port state inspections.
- 10.2 Where there is any doubt on the validity of, or limitation applicable to, a seafarer documentation, the Company should liaise with the issuing Administration or body of the affected certificate.
- 10.3 In accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/14 (f), companies should maintain a shipboard record of onboard familiarisation instruction and or training that has been undertaken.
- 10.4 The BMA should be contacted if there is any doubt as to whether a vessel is appropriately manned.

**11. Enquiries**

Any queries related to the training and certification requirements can be directed to the BMA's Seafarers and Manning Department at: [stcw@bahamasmaritime.com](mailto:stcw@bahamasmaritime.com)

**12. Revision History**

Rev.1 (07 April 2017) – Second issue: general update and inclusion of IMO Guidance on implementation of 2010 Amendments

Rev.0 (03 May 2011) – First issue

**Annex I: STCW.7/Circ.24 on the requirements of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended ([please click here to read](#))**