

DMA RO Circular no. 021

Regarding the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended

1. Introduction

Implementation of the STCW Convention may raise various questions during Port State Control inspections because of differences in the application of the Convention in different countries.

The intention of this publication is to explain the procedures followed by the Danish Maritime Authority.

The procedures comply with the provisions of the Convention, as amended. Furthermore, attention is directed to the IMO STCW.7 Circulars, which contain internationally agreed clarification regarding the application of the provisions of the STCW Convention, as amended.

Verification of the procedures described herein or any enquiries regarding the contents of this publication that may arise during a Port State Control inspection may be directed to the Danish Maritime Authority, tel.: + 45 72 19 60 00, email: bevis@dma.dk.

2. Explanatory note

Supplementary remarks to several regulations, etc. are given in the following appendix 1.

With this circular, the Danish Maritime Authority hopes to contribute to a smooth completion of Port State Control inspections as far as they concern the application of the STCW Convention in Danish ships and the manning of ships.

As stated in Article X of the STCW Convention, all possible efforts shall be made by Port State officials to avoid a ship being unduly detained or delayed when exercising control. It is also stated that, if a ship is unduly detained or delayed, it shall be entitled to compensation for any loss or damage resulting therefrom.

3. Minimum safe manning documents

For further information please see "DMA RO Circular no. 020 regarding Minimum Safe Manning Document and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended".

Appendix 1 STCW Regulations

<p>Certificate formats for Danish appropriate certificates</p>	<p>STCW endorsements are incorporated in the certificate format so that certificate and endorsement is the same document, cf. STCW Regulation I/2, paragraph 6.</p> <p>The format differs from the standard format according to regulation I/2, paragraph 10, and the STCW Code, A-I/2.</p> <p>The main variation is that the competencies held and functions which the holder is found competent to perform are not listed because these are unambiguously identified by the text in the certificate.</p> <p>“Name of Holder has been found duly qualified in accordance with the provisions of Regulation(s) of the above Convention ...”.</p> <p>In which the relevant regulation(s) are inserted.</p> <p>By specifying the regulations complied with unambiguously, the functions and levels of competence covered by the Regulations are identified.</p> <p>For ease of reference, the functions and levels of competence are as follows:</p>	
	<p>STCW regulation:</p>	<p>Remarks:</p>
	<p>Regulations II/1 and II/3 – Functions at the operational level and Regulation II/2 – Functions at management level</p>	
	<p>Regulations II/1 and II/2 (BRM)</p>	<p>Officers holding Danish certificates of competency in accordance with Regulations II/1 and II/2 comply with the competence requirements in Regulation II/1 and II/2 – Tables A-II/1 and A-II/2 include, but are not limited to, "Ship manoeuvring and handling" and "Bridge Resource Management".</p> <p>Danish appropriate certificates issued in accordance with Regulations II attest compliance with the requirement stated above and separate course certificates are not issued.</p>
	<p>Regulations II/1, II/2, II/3 (ECDIS)</p>	<p>Officers holding Danish certificates of competency in accordance with Regulations II/1, II/2 and II/3 without limitation comply with the requirement for Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) training as described in Tables A-II/1, 2, and 3, and are not requested to provide documentary evidence of training in ECDIS, unless otherwise stated on the certificate of competency.</p> <p>Danish appropriate certificates issued in accordance with Regulations II attest compliance with the requirement stated above and separate course certificates are not issued.</p>
	<p>Regulation III/1 – Functions at the <u>operational</u> level and Regulations III/2 and III/3 – Functions at <u>management</u> level</p>	
	<p>Regulations III/1, III/2 (ERM)</p>	<p>Officers holding Danish certificates of competency in accordance with Regulations III/1 and III/2 comply with the competence requirements in Regulation III – Tables A-III/1 and A-III/2 include, but are not limited to, "Engine Room Resource Management".</p>
	<p>Regulation II/4</p>	<p>If an issued Danish Certificate of Proficiency as an able</p>

		ship's assistant is endorsed according to the STCW Convention, regulation II/4, no separate II/4-certificate is required or issued.
	Regulation V/1-1, paragraph 2.2, and regulation V/1-2, paragraph 2.2	Compliance with <u>familiarization</u> requirements for service on oil and chemical tankers, cf. regulation V/1-1, paragraph 2.2, and gas tankers, cf. regulation V/1-2, paragraph 2.2, is certified on certificates issued under chapter II for deck officers and III for engineer officers by reference to regulation V/1-1, paragraph 2.2, and regulation V/1-2, paragraph 2.2.
	Alternative certification, chapter VII	Certificates include the text: "and authorized to perform the following additional function or functions at the levels specified, subject to any limitations indicated:" This is for certifying additional functions in accordance with chapter VII of the STCW Convention. If "None" is specified under Function, it means that the holder is not certified in accordance with chapter VII.
Information to IMO	As required by the STCW Convention, specimen certificates were included in the Danish submission of information to the Secretary General of the IMO, which were evaluated for establishment of the white list, and no objections have been raised. According to the STCW Convention, regulation I/8 and section A-I/8, the evaluation will be conducted at intervals of not more than 5 years.	
Documentation on Danish ships for compliance with Basic Training for officers	Documentation on Danish ships for compliance with Basic Training requirements in section A-VI/1, paragraph 2, and Danish Certificates of Competency are certificates of competency issued to officers, cf. MSC/Circ. 1030 – see annex 1. Seafarers holding a Danish Certificate of Competency comply with basic training requirements (regulation VI/1, the STCW Code, section A-VI/1, paragraph 2, on basic training as specified in tables A-VI/1-1, A-VI/1-2, A-VI/1-3 and A-VI/1-4) and separate certificates are not issued.	
Ordinary and able ship's assistants	Seafarers having fulfilled Danish training as ship's assistants comply with the basic training requirements (regulations II/4, II/5, III/5, V/1-1, paragraph 2.2, V/1-2, paragraph 2.2, VI/1, the STCW Code, section A-VI/1, paragraph 2, on basic training as specified in tables A-VI/1-1, A-VI/1-2, A-VI/1-3 and A-VI/1-4, and VI/6-4). In Denmark, the necessary education and training is part of mandatory shore-based training. The Danish Maritime Authority and approved maritime education training institutes issue certificates for ordinary and able ship's assistants according to regulations II/5 and III/5. According to regulation I/11, no date of expiry is added to certificates for ratings who have signed on as ship's assistants.	
IMDG Code	Certificates of competency in accordance with the provisions of regulations II/1, II/2, II/3, III/1, III/2, and III/3 meet the requirements of the STCW Code, Section B-V/c.	
Certification as radio operator	Certification as a radio operator is by separate certificate and endorsement which includes evidence of compliance with requirements from both the STCW Convention and the Radio Regulations, cf. regulation I/2, paragraph 2. When issuing Flag State Endorsement Certificates for non-Danish Seafarer's Certificates of Competency, regulations II/1 and II/2, the Danish Maritime Authority will	

	also include recognition of GMDSS Radio Operator Certificate, regulation IV – in the Danish Endorsement Certificate – stating that the holder of such endorsement has been authorized to be in charge of GMDSS radio communications.
Watchkeeping certificates for ratings	<p>Watchkeeping certificates for deck ratings issued in accordance with regulation II/6 of the STCW Convention in force before 1 February 1997 (STCW 78) are valid for service after 1 January 2017 as equivalent to an II/4 certificate issued in accordance with the STCW-95 Convention, as amended.</p> <p>If an issued Danish Certificate of Proficiency as an able ship's assistant is endorsed in accordance with regulation II/4, no separate certificate is needed or issued.</p>
Watchkeeping certificates for engine ratings	<p>According to the STCW Code, A-VIII/2, engine watchkeeping for ratings is not required.</p> <p>In Danish vessels, engine ratings do not take part in an engine-room watch, thus watchkeeping engine ratings are not prescribed in minimum safe manning documents, and watchkeeping certificates for engine ratings issued in accordance with regulation III/4 of the STCW Convention are not required in Danish vessels nor issued.</p>
Certificates of competency issued by the Government of the Faroe Islands	The Danish Maritime Authority accepts Certificates of Competency issued by the Government of the Faroe Islands, and such certificates are exchangeable with certificates issued by the Danish Maritime Authority. Therefore recognition of Certificates of Competency issued by the Government of the Faroe Islands is unnecessary.
Ships fitted with ECDIS	<p>On ships fitted with ECDIS, watchkeeping officers must comply with the STCW Code, table A-II/1, about the competent use of ECDIS to maintain safety of navigation.</p> <p>Persons holding Certificates of Competency as a watchkeeping officer with the limitation "Not valid for ships fitted with ECDIS" must not serve as watchkeeping officers on ships fitted with ECDIS.</p> <p>If no limitation regarding ECDIS is stated on the Certificate of Competency as a deck officer, the holder fulfils the STCW Code, table A-II/1 – table A.</p>
Medical standards	<p>Seafarers, including masters, serving on or about to start serving on Danish merchant vessels must hold a Danish Health Certificate, which contains the result of a Danish medical certificate.</p> <p>Seafarers need to bring on board only the Health Certificate, and not the medical certificate.</p>
Verification of authenticity	As of 1 January 2017 it is possible to verify the authenticity of STCW certificates online on our webpage www.dma.dk

Appendix 1 STCW Regulations continued

IMO STCW.7 Circulars

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MSC/Circ.1030
29 May 2002

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING,
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR
SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978, AS AMENDED**

Guidance for port State control officers on issues related to certificates of competency

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-fifth session (15 to 24 May 2002), noted that, during inspections, some port State control officers were requiring documentary evidence of successful completion of short-course training meeting the requirements in regulations VI/1, VI/2, VI/3 and VI/4 from seafarers holding certificates of competency issued under regulations II/1, II/2, II/3, III/1, III/2, III/3, and VII/2 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 1978, as amended, even though the Convention includes this training as a pre-requisite for the issue of these certificates of competency.

2 The Committee agreed that certificates of competency issued in compliance with regulations II/1, II/2, II/3, III/1, III/2, III/3 and VII/2 of the STCW Convention 1978, as amended, also included the following competency requirements of chapter VI of the STCW Convention: proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats (regulation VI/2, paragraph 1), training in advanced fire fighting (regulation VI/3), and medical first aid (regulation VI/4, paragraph 1).

3 The Committee further agreed that it was therefore not necessary for the holders of certificates of competency to carry additional documentary evidence in respect of those competences of chapter VI listed in paragraph 2 above.

4 Member Governments are invited to bring this information to the attention of all concerned, especially port State control officers.