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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING,
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978**

Accession by the Cook Islands

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, and to state that, in accordance with article XIII, accession by the Cook Islands was affected by the deposit of an instrument on 17 February 2010.

The Convention will enter into force for the Cook Islands on 17 May 2010, in accordance with article XIV. Accordingly, from that date, the Government of New Zealand will cease to have State responsibility for the observance of the obligations under this Convention in respect of the Cook Islands.

There are, at present, one hundred and fifty-four Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 99.15% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping.