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STCW.2/Circ.39
16 August 2011

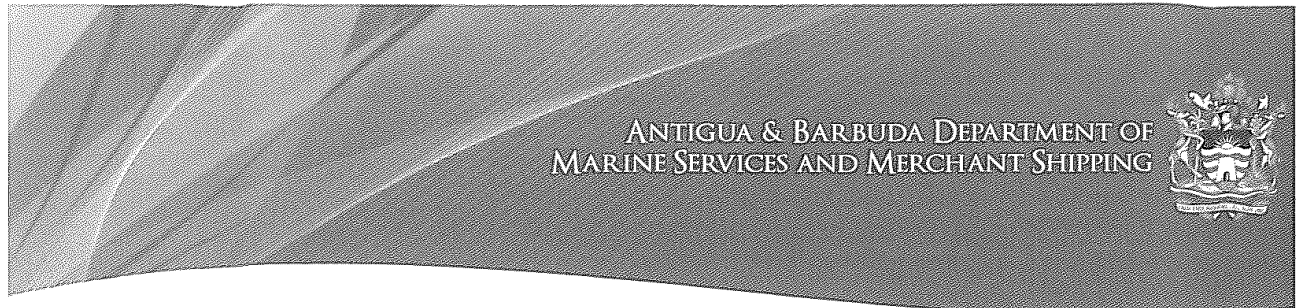
**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING
FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978, AS AMENDED**

Communication received from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the attached communication of 3 August 2011 received from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, concerning equivalent arrangements accepted under article IX/I of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, for the international certification of pleasure yachts engaged in trade and sail training ships.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

ANNEX



August 03, 2011

Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

Dear Secretary-General,

Re: Equivalent Arrangements under the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended, (LL 1966); the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, (SOLAS 1974); and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, (STCW 1978).

On behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, I have the honour to notify you of our equivalent arrangements under the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended, (LL 1966); the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, (SOLAS 1974); and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, (STCW 1978).

Details of the equivalent arrangements are attached for circulation to contracting Governments of the Conventions.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dwight C.R. Gardiner".

Dwight C.R. Gardiner
Director/Registrar General
ADOMS St. John's

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Statement by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Equivalents

1. Antigua and Barbuda to which the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as modified by the Protocol of 1988; the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, (SOLAS 1974); and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, (STCW 1978) have been extended, being concerned as to the standards of safety applied to certain yachts and sail training vessels, feel compelled to make special provision for the application of these Conventions to international certification of pleasure yachts, which are engaged in trade, carrying up to 12 passengers; and sail training vessels, carrying up to 50 trainees being vessels of 24m length and over, but of under 3000 gross tonnage.
2. Such equivalent provisions are recognized in Article 8 of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended, (LL 1966); in Chapter I, Regulation 5 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, (SOLAS 1974); and in Article IX of the International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, (STCW 78).

Background

3. It has long been recognized that the requirements of the Load Line Convention, 1966, as amended, the SOLAS Convention, 1974, as amended and the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended, pose impracticable implications to pleasure yachts engaged in trade and sail training vessels. Based upon this the United Kingdom has published as Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN 1792) "The Large Commercial Yacht Code" (LY2). This revised the text of the "Code of Practice for the Safety of Large Commercial Sailing and Motor Vessels", published in 1997, and notified to the International Maritime Organization under Circular Letter No. 1996. Antigua and Barbuda has adopted by virtue of the Merchant Shipping (Vessels in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure) Regulations 2011, the United Kingdom's Large Commercial Yacht Code, (LY2)
4. Also, details of officer certification requirements are published by the United Kingdom in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1802(M) "Certificates of Competency: Yacht Deck Officer Training and Certification Guidance", and Marine Guidance Note MGN 156 (M) "Certificates of competency for Marine Engine Operator Licences for service as an Engineer Officer on commercially and privately operated yachts and sail training vessels, have been adopted by Antigua and Barbuda as contained in these Regulations.

Notification

5. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda to which the International Conventions on Load Lines, 1966, as modified by the Protocol of 1988 (LL Prot 1988), the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, (SOLAS 1974); and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping, 1978, as amended, (STCW 1978), have been extended, are of the view that the application of the Large Yacht Code (LY2), MSN 1802(M) and MGN 156 (M) are equivalent arrangements under the “equivalence” provisions of these Conventions for the international certification of pleasure yachts, which are engaged in trade, carrying up to 12 passengers; and of sail training vessels, carrying up to 50 trainees, being vessels of 24 metres length and over, but of under 3000 gross tonnage.
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