



Ref. T2/4.2.1

STCW.8/Circ.1
5 June 2002

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES MAINTAINING REGISTERS OF STCW CONVENTION CERTIFICATES AND ENDORSEMENTS

Verification of validity and authenticity of certificates

1 In order to assist Parties and companies to verify the authenticity of certificates, the Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW), at its thirtieth session, instructed the Secretariat to revise and update STW/Circ.29 containing the list of certificate-issuing authorities.

2 Consequently, document STCW 95/Circ.1 dated 15 April 1999 was issued, superseding STW/Circ.29 and comprising a compilation of names, postal addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers and e-mail addresses of ministries, departments or governmental agencies responsible for regulating the Convention in accordance with information communicated to the Secretary-General as required by paragraph 2.1 of section A-I/7 of the STCW Code.

3 At its thirty-first session (10 to 14 January 2000), the STW Sub-Committee instructed the Secretariat to update STCW 95/Circ.1. The first revised list was issued on 2 May 2000; revision 2 was issued on 11 September 2000 and revision 3 on 1 March 2002.

4 At its seventy-fifth session (15 to 24 May 2002), the Maritime Safety Committee recognized that the use of the term "STCW 95" to mean the International Convention on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 1978, as amended, had led to some confusion as the Convention had been amended subsequently. As the Committee had also instructed the Secretariat to remove references to "STCW 95" in the published version of the Convention, the opportunity of the revision of this circular has been taken to remove references to STCW 95 and to re-name this series of circulars as STCW.1/Circ.

5 At its thirty-third session (21 to 25 January 2002), the Sub-Committee considered the outcome of the research on Unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency and endorsements, which had been undertaken on behalf of the Organization by the Seafarers' International Research Centre, Cardiff University, which included recommendations on preventative measures, enforcement measures and exchange of information.

6 In considering exchange of information, the Sub-Committee urged Parties, as a high priority, to ensure that information on reliable direct contact details such as: e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and fax numbers for verification of authenticity of certificates by other Administrations, was communicated to IMO and updated in a timely manner. The Sub-Committee also invited the Secretariat to develop its website to include secure, direct links with focal points of administrations and provide ready access to administrations that require verification of certificates.

7 Information on National Administrations responsible for regulating the STCW Convention contained in STCW95/Circ.1 to STCW95/Circ.1/Rev.3, based on the information communicated to the Secretary-General, has therefore been updated to take account of changes notified to the Secretariat in respect of the correct contact details of those authorities maintaining registers of certificates and endorsements. A regularly updated version of the details at annex to this circular is available on the IMO public website and should be consulted for the latest information available.

8 Parties to the STCW Convention listed in the annex are requested to check the details of their particulars and, if amendments are required, to advise the Secretariat accordingly. This document will be kept under review, amended as deemed necessary and circulated to Member States Parties to the STCW Convention.

National authorities maintaining registers of certificates and endorsements

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National authorities maintaining registers of certificates and endorsements

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