



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
30th session
Agenda item 12

STW 30/12/2
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fraudulent certificates

Submitted by Cyprus

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This paper draws the attention of the Sub-Committee on the alarming proliferation of forged certificates of competency or authentic certificates of competency issued on the basis of forged foreign certificates of competency.
Action to be taken:	See paragraph 4.
Related documents:	Nil.

1 Cyprus is concerned with the alarming proliferation of forged certificates of competency or authentic certificates of competency issued on the basis of forged foreign certificates of competency. The Department of Merchant Shipping which is the competent Authority for Maritime Affairs for the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, has confiscated in the course of port State control during the current year a large number of forged certificates and has found out that some Parties to the STCW 78 Convention as amended do issue certificates to officers on the basis of forged foreign certificates without examining either the authenticity of the certificate itself or the basic competence of the applicant.

2 The other alarming observation of this Government is that a large number of certificates of competency is most probably issued without an in depth examination of the qualification and competence of the applicant. It is, for example, hard to believe that, it is possible for an Administration implementing the STCW 78 Convention to assess the qualifications and competence of a twenty year old seafarer and issue to him a master's certificate for ocean going ships. In our opinion any serious Maritime Authority would have questioned how the applicant managed to reach the rank of the master in such a short period of time.

3 The proliferation of forged certificates and the way certain Parties to the Convention issue certificates, undermines, in our opinion, the objectives and goals that all Parties have agreed to pursue with the amendments of 1995 and increases the risk of losing more lives and pollute the marine environment.

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Action requested of the Sub-Committee

4 The Sub-Committee is requested to recommend to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) to urge those Parties of the STCW 78 Convention, as amended, which issue certificates of competency on the basis of another Party's certificates in accordance with the provisions of Regulation I/15 (Transitional Provisions) of the Convention, to:

- .1 take all measures necessary to ensure that the seafarers who submit, for certification certificates of competency issued by another Party, under the provisions of Regulations II/2, II/3, II/4, III/2, III/3, III/4, and IV/2 of the STCW 78 Convention, fulfil the applicable requirements of the Convention; and
- .2 include details of the underlying certificate on the new certificate, and as a minimum to include:
 - a. The authority that has issued the certificate
 - b. Certificate number
 - c. Capacity and limitations if any
 - d. Date of issue
 - e. Date of expiry if any

or attach the certificate on the basis of which the new certificate has been issued.
