



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
30th session
Agenda item 2

STW 30/2/3
11 December 1998
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DECISIONS OF OTHER IMO BODIES

Decisions of the seventieth session of the Maritime Safety Committee

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document lists the decisions of the seventieth session of the Maritime Safety Committee relevant to the work of the Sub-Committee.
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 5.
<i>Related documents:</i>	MSC 70/23.

1 The Maritime Safety Committee held its seventieth session from 7 to 11 December 1998. Decisions taken by the Committee relevant to the work of the Sub-Committee are referred to below.

2 Decisions referenced to the Sub-Committee's provisional agenda (STW 30/1):

.1 **Agenda item 2 - Decisions of other bodies**

MSC 70/23 paragraphs 3.4 to 3.7 and 20.28 to 20.30;

.2 **Agenda item 5 - Follow up action to the 1995 STCW Conference**

MSC 70/23 paragraphs 5.1 to 5.15; and

.3 **Agenda item 9 - Medical standards for seafarers**

MSC 70/23 paragraphs 5.16 and 5.17.

3 The Committee also requested STW 30 to consider the effect of amendments to the training and certification requirements of the STCW Convention and Code on seafarers trained prior to their entry into force and, if necessary, provide clarifications (MSC 70/23 paragraph 3.8).

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4 The Committee further requested STW 30 to consider the draft MSC Circular at annex on Fraudulent certificates of competency and to finalize it for issue as soon as possible (MSC 70/23, paragraph 5.19).

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the foregoing and take action as appropriate.

ANNEX**Draft MSC Circular****FRAUDULENT CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventieth session (7 to 11 December 1998), noted with great concern reports from Member Governments on a proliferation of fraudulent STCW certificates of competency, or authentic certificates reportedly issued on the basis of forged foreign certificates, which had been found during port State control inspections and applications for recognition of certificates.

2 During discussions, it was brought to the Committee's attention that a significant number of certificates of competency might have been issued by certain Administrations on the basis of certificates issued by another Party without sufficient verification of the validity of the original certificate or of the right of the individual concerned to hold the certificate. The Committee was concerned that such a development would undermine the objectives of the revised STCW Convention.

3 Recognizing the potential hazards and consequences to the safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment posed by inadequately trained and qualified [or improperly certificated] seafarers, the Committee invites Member Governments and STCW Parties:

- .1 to consider the matter and provide the Organization and the issuing administration with any relevant information on fraudulent certificates which they encounter in the course of their work as flag States, port States or both;
- .2 in case there are clear grounds of believing that a certificate has been fraudulently obtained or that the holder of a certificate is not the person to whom that certificate was originally issued, to act as provided in STCW Article X and regulation I/4; and
- .3 to intensify their efforts to eliminate the unlawful practice referred to above.
