



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
31st session
Agenda item 6

STW 31/6/3
10 November 1999
Original: ENGLISH

UNLAWFUL PRACTICES ASSOCIATED WITH CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

Fraudulent certificates and preventive measures

Submitted by Vanuatu

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This document contains further cases of fraudulent documents confiscated by Vanuatu during flag. State controls as requested by MSC/Circ.900 dated 2 February 1999
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 20
Related documents:	STW 31/6/1 and MSC/Circ.900

Background

1 This document, which is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 46.5 of the Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the MSC and MEPC and their subsidiary bodies, refers to cases of fraudulent documents detected during Vanuatu's screening process additional to those reported in STW 31/6/1.

Cases identified during the screening process.

2 The current cases relate to fraudulent documents submitted by deck or engineer officers for endorsement under regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention or by ratings purporting to have qualifications required by the Convention. In addition, fraudulent documents were unnecessarily submitted by ratings claiming to have STCW qualifications that were not required by the Convention for the grades in which they were intending to serve. Each set of circumstances is dealt with in chronological order below.

3 In July 1999, during the application for recognition of a GMDSS qualification, concurrent examination of the holder of a Colombian Master's License, gave rise to suspicion that the latter was fraudulent. Correspondence with the Colombian authorities confirmed that the applicant was issued with a first-class seaman certificate (A.B.) on 13 October 1993, which expired on 13 October 1998. The applicant claimed that mistakes had been made and that his Colombian documents were valid. He was informed that he would never be allowed to serve in any capacity on a Vanuatu vessel. The Colombian authorities were encouraged to contact him and take action under the laws of Colombia. The correspondence was copied to two other States whose documents he held.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

4 On 12 August 1999, the Indian authorities confirmed that the Certificates of an A.B., an Oiler, a Bosun and a Cook were fraudulent. The Cook's document stated "rank: Cook" but also included the statement "And is qualified to form part of a Navigational watch" (see paragraph 14 below).

5 On 24 August 1999, the Indian authorities confirmed that 8 Cooks, 1 Crane-driver, 7 Oilers, 19 A.B.s and 1 Bosun had submitted fraudulent documents (see paragraph 14 below).

6 On 13 September, the Montenegro authorities confirmed that the following documents/licenses of an applicant were fraudulent: GMDSS - General A license; Endorsement of Certificate as Master; Advanced Fire-fighting Certificate; Certificate of Search, Rescue and Survival at Sea and First Aid. The applicant was told that his employers had been informed that he couldn't be employed on any Vanuatu vessel. He was informed: "You are subject to prosecution by a Vanuatu court, are subject to arrest by any legitimate flag State inspector and are subject to a fine of \$10,000".

7 On 17 September 1999, the Indian authorities confirmed that an STCW Certificate issued to an able seaman was fraudulent. His employers were informed and he was moved from his vessel. Details of his documents are being made available to the Indian authorities for further investigation. He will be banned from employment on any Vanuatu vessel (see paragraph 14 below).

8 On 20 September 1999, the Indian authorities confirmed that two Second Engineer Certificates were fraudulent. Their employers were informed that they must be removed from the vessel and that all their Indian documents must be confiscated. Realising that they were suspected of having fraudulent certificates, the two applicants destroyed their documents and left the vessels they were assigned to. They will be banned from employment on any Vanuatu vessel. Details of their documents are being provided to the Indian authorities (see paragraph 14 below).

9 On 28 September 1999, the Indian authorities confirmed that an STCW Certificate issued to an able seaman was fraudulent. His employers were informed and he was moved from his vessel. Details of his documents are being made available to the Indian authorities for further investigation. He will be banned from employment on any Vanuatu vessel (see paragraph 14 below).

10 On 11 October 1999, the Spanish authorities confirmed that an STCW Certificate issued to a Chief Engineer was fraudulent. His employers were informed that he must be removed from the vessel and that all his Spanish documents must be confiscated in order that they may be made available for Spanish investigations. They were also informed that he would be banned from employment on any Vanuatu vessel.

11 On 12 October 1999, the Indian authorities confirmed that an STCW Certificate issued to a motorman was fraudulent. His employers were informed and he was removed from his vessel, all documents are being returned to Vanuatu for further investigations in co-operation with the Indian authorities. He will be banned from employment on any Vanuatu vessel (see paragraph 14 below).

12 On 26 October 1999, the Honduran authorities confirmed that a Second Engineer's Honduran license was fraudulent. His employers were informed that he must be removed from the vessel and that all his Honduran documents must be confiscated in order that they may be made available for Honduran investigations. They were also informed that he would be banned from employment on any Vanuatu vessel.

13 On 3 November 1999, the Indian authorities confirmed that the STCW certificates of two seamen/helmsmen were fraudulent. As a consequence, owners and manning agents are, at this time, co-operating with the Vanuatu authorities to confiscate all Indian documents from the seamen and prevent them joining any Vanuatu vessel (see paragraph 14 below).

Co-operation with the Indian Authorities (paragraphs 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13).

14 The discovery of some of the fraudulent Indian certificates referred to above occurred immediately prior to four Vanuatu Safety Seminars at which Vanuatu's Inspectors retained for non-mandatory safety inspections, recognised organizations, and owners are briefed. Fortuitously, a seminar in Hazira, India, permitted Vanuatu's Deputy Commissioner the opportunity to discuss the problems with the Surveyors of the Indian Government Directorate of Shipping in Mumbai. Several useful views were exchanged. In local shipping circles, it had been alleged that fraudulent certificates could be obtained around the local Mercantile Marine Department. The Surveyors said that a counterfeiting ring had been broken up and the members were already in prison. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that Vanuatu would continue to work closely with the Indian Directorate of Shipping to identify and confiscate fraudulent Indian documents.

15 Vanuatu's Deputy Commissioner also met with several Mumbai manning agencies and local shipowners and re-affirmed his determination to ensure that fraudulent certificates would not be used on Vanuatu vessels. Additionally, during his attendance at the eighth meeting of the Marine Accident Investigators International Forum, the Deputy Commissioner was able to brief the 80 participants, representing some 25 Administrations, on the issue of fraudulent documents.

Summary Comments

16 Vanuatu intends to co-operate with other Administrations in ensuring that fraudulent certificate holders are excluded from merchant ships. In this regard, Vanuatu has developed a database of all persons who have been identified as fraudulent certificate holders and will make this information available on request. A copy of the current listing is annexed to this paper.

17 Documents submitted for nationals or residents of India, Honduras and Montenegro are being sent to the appropriate national authorities for verification.

18 Vanuatu will continue its intensive screening process. In this respect, some fraudulent Honduran documents were produced on "bank protected" paper and many documents have embossing and stamps that are comparable to, if not better than, an original. Others are crudely prepared and are easily identifiable as fraudulent. However, both sophisticated and crude documents can be identified if there are errors in regulation numbers.

19 Vanuatu will alert all its Safety Inspectors, Deputy Commissioners and shipping companies of these findings.

Action requested of the Committee

20 The Committee is invited to note the above information and decide as appropriate.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SEAFARERS NAME</u>	<u>RANK/RATING</u>	<u>FRAUDULENT DOCUMENT TYPE</u>	<u>DOCUMENT #</u>	<u>SEAMAN'S ID BOOK #</u>	<u>PASSPORT #</u>
COLOMBIA	FLOYD ASCANIO VENER POMARES	MASTER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	#59782025	#195.078	X
ECUADOR	KLEBER M. LOPEZ	FIRST ASSISTANT ENGINEER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	#1465	X	SA 16.221
	FRANCISCO ISAAC DELGADO QUIJIJE	SECOND ASSISTANT ENGINEER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	#1465	X	SB 57.943
	JAIME C. MACIAS ZAMBRANO	THIRD ASSISANT ENGINEER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	#1465	X	SA 42.035
HONDURAS	TOMAS MARCELO JEREZANO ORELLANO	FIRST ASSISTANT ENGINEER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	#2490	#69305	#556667
	HUELEN SLEY PANDEY-BENNETT	CHIEF OFFICER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	#2377	X	X
	ORLANDO DESMOND MCLAUGHLIN WEBSTER	FIRST ASSISTANT ENGINEER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	#4707	#32900	#12957
	ESMON EDWARD DIXON	MASTER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	#4848	#58205	#535747
	LEO BURKLEY CONNOR	CHIEF OFFICER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	#6890	#059863	#045976
INDIA	SUDHIR PUTHIYAKADAYATH HARIDAS	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-1178	BY-56491	G 635528
	PRAVEEN KUMAR VALIYAVEETIL	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-4317	BY-58505	A 0887429
	ABDULLAKUTTY USMANPILLAI	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-6587	BY-83001	U 300630
	EDAKKONATHU SKARIAH VARUGHESE	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	D-5158	A-72656	T 517204
	THARAKAN THOMAKUTTY ANTO	CRANE OPERATOR	STCW ENDORSEMENT	D-5389	BY-54698	H 910962
	KALIAPERUMAL BASKARAN	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	D-5892	BY-61580	T 015513
	MATHEW THUNDATHIL JACOB	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-4462	BY-57341	M 024136
	RAJAN POOVAPPALLIL ABRAHAM	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-5783	B-8675	A 1485487
	JOSEPH VARGHESE	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-3748	BY-69547	I 093649
	MOHAMED MUSTAFA ABDUL SHUKOOR	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-6817	A-83014	Q 623422
	LUCIANO JOSE DE BRITO	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-4289	BY-68097	A 5987803
	SUNNY JOSEPH	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-439	BY-51097	H 920599
	MURALEEDHARA KURUP CHELLAPPAN PILLAI	OILER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/E-2018	BY-65210	L 871804
	PARASRAM GODHAMRAM	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-6332	BY-57966	A 369072
	MYLAPILLI LAXMANA RAO	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	D-6212	BY-61521	M 968546
	PRIYA CHINNA RAO	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-3711	BY-59204	L 536523
	TOMY CHITTLAPPILLY PARICHUNNI	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-5812	BY-56766	T 504710
	MICHAEL JOSEPH THUNDIYIL	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-6237	BY-95658	L 639331
	HARPAL SINGH	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-1197	BY-61049	A 660538
	JAYAKUMAR GOPALAN	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-3896	BY-61227	M 394457
	VARGHESE PORINCHU PERAMANGALAM	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	D-3426	#0406554	S 869169
	LITTEN POOPALA RAYAN VELICHORE	OILER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/E-5327	BY-83566	A 6033730
	REMEY MENINO FERNANADES	OILER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/E-5027	BY-613452	A 7596134
	AZHCHANGADAN YAHANNAN BIJU	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-2936	M/HT/3269	Q 958667
	MATHAI KURIAKO KANDATHICHIRA	OILER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/E-3705	BY-59729	A 007302
	SODHI RAM	OILER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/E-3764	BY-54921	N 629187
	KARICHALY DAYANIDHI	OILER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/E-297	A-76034	K 549304
	ROQUE DA COSTA	COOK	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/E-784	K-11567	L 255895
	MOHAMED MUSTAFA BADARUSSAMAN	COOK	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-7316	A-75292	V 253812
	ABBAS KUNHAMU	COOK	STCW ENDORSEMENT	S-5892	A-54873	L 016167
	KRISMWAN SATHYADEVAN	COOK	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-3972	A-81945	S 692067
	KOYAKUNJU NOORUDEEN KUTTY	COOK	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-6892	A-81325	Q 619472
	KOSURU VENKAYASESHAIAH	COOK	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-7986	BY-61701	Q 790355
	PANIKKAVEETIL KURUPPATH SAIDU	COOK	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-3698	A-25884	U 800380
	THEO FRANCIES FERNANDES	COOK	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-4843	BY-49362	G 678771
	ATHAMPARAMBIL ABDUL RAHIMAN	OILER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/E-3697	A-81307	T 094822
	FRANCISCO ANTONIO ALMEIDA	COOK	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/D-4216	BY-61429	A 1906565
	KHALASI SHANTILAL SOMABHAI	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	D-5892	BY-69304	V 152836
	TANOJ KUMAR RAMANLAL KHANHERIA	OILER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/E-4659	BY-64018	N 290834
	MADHAVAN ACHARY MOHANAN	BOSUN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	D-1103	A-67493	A 2072122
	NABA KUMAR SENGUPTA	MOTORMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	E/671/99	A-74325	V 541199
	JOHN VAKEPALLATHU GEEVARGHESE	FIRST ASSISTANT ENGINEER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	IE-10965	A-54844	F 585991
	MANGALATHUKARY JOSEPH JOSE	FIRST ASSISTANT ENGINEER	CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY	IE-17749	BY-57149	T 595577
	LLOYD JOSEPH RODRIGUES	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/MUN/D-4012	A-74256	A 324981
	SAMARPANA RAO KAKI	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	R/97167	A-81193	H 472265
	SOKKALINGAM ARUMUGAN	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/BOM/D/7075	A-78459	S 448974
	YASIN KHAN PATHAN	ABLE SEAMAN	STCW ENDORSEMENT	MMD/BOM/D/3880	A-75349	U 286478
MONTENEGRO	SILVIO V. KUTLE	MASTER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	463-ML-98	X	#10243436
SPAIN	BENJAMIN FRANCISCO GARCIA	MASTER	STCW ENDORSEMENT	#62451	X	36096702-L