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SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
34th session
Agenda item 13

STW 34/13/2
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS**Verification of seafarer's certificates****Note by The Commonwealth of Dominica****SUMMARY**

Executive summary: This document highlights problems Dominica has had in securing timely verification of seafarer's certificates by other Administrations in accordance with regulation I/9, paragraph 4.2 and regulation I/10.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: N/A

1 Dominica has been experiencing some difficulties in obtaining timely responses in accordance with regulation I/9, paragraph 4.2 and regulation I/10 from some Administrations, when requesting verification of certificates purported by the applicant to have been issued by them. Dedicated follow up results in the information being obtained but it comes with considerable administrative time loss and delay to the seafarer in obtaining the requested certificate.

2 The list of focal points for Administrations responsible for implementing the STW Convention as well as the IMO Web site "certificate verification" tool was used to request the needed information but neither served to reach the responsible individuals. Often there is no individual listed to contact directly, making it difficult to deal with non- responses.

3 Dominica has completed a number of undertakings in accordance with Regulation I/10 with the aim of improving this information transfer and will continue this effort with additional Administrations. However the problems continue.

4 The addition of the IMO Web site "certificate verification" tool to facilitate enquires to Administrations is a very positive step but in a number of cases e-mail addresses are not provided. Contact names would be very helpful in making telephone enquiries in cases where there are difficulties or in the event a timely response is not received. It is recognised that the names would change from time to time with the potential for the web site to be out of date but the name would still be valuable entry reference when making a telephone enquiry.

5 If implementation of the amended STCW Convention is to be successful it is critical that certificate verification, or equally important, notification that a referenced certificate is not valid,

be timely. Informal discussions with other Administrations indicate that Dominica's experience is not unique. Clearly problems are being experienced and improvements are needed.

6 Dominica would welcome an exchange of views to provide guidance and insight on how to deal with such situations. Additionally, it is suggested that Administrations be urged to review and update their STCW Convention contact information and include the name of the responsible individual.

Action to be taken by the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the above information and take action as appropriate.
