



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
35th session
Agenda item 5

STW 35/5
24 October 2003
Original: ENGLISH

UNLAWFUL PRACTICES ASSOCIATED WITH CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

Progress report on the list of actions

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document contains information on progress since STW 34 with those actions to be undertaken identified in the list of actions developed by STW 33
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 9
<i>Related documents:</i>	STW 33/17, annex 4 and STW 34/14

Background

1 The Sub-Committee, at its thirty-third session (21 to 25 January 2002), developed a list of high priority and long-term actions to be undertaken by the Secretariat and the Sub-Committee relating to unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency (STW 33/17, annex 4).

Action taken by the Secretariat since STW 34

2 As instructed by STW 34 the Secretariat has modified the data entry screen in light of the comments made, and has included a legal disclaimer based on the legal guidance of the certificate verification facility on the IMO website considered at STW 34. The modified data entry screen is given at annex 1.

3 The use of the certificate verification facility has been monitored by the Secretariat and is continuing to be widely used as evidenced by the statistics for the 12-month period November 2002 to October 2003 given at annex 2. During the period 2001 – 2002 the website was used at an average of 140 times per month and during the period 2002 – 2003 it has risen to an average of 574 times per month, indicating that the facility is being used extensively for certificate verification.

4 Since STW 34 the Secretariat has received information from a number of flag and port States, shipping companies and seafarers detailing examples of fraudulent certificates found on board ships during inspections or reportedly being used. A summary of those reports is at annex 3.

5 To date, the IMO website has been further developed to provide direct links to the websites in certificate-issuing administrations whose details have been communicated to the Secretariat. In order to make further progress, Member Governments are requested to give to the Secretariat details of their website addresses where direct on-line certificate verification can be made in order that the links can be added as soon as practicable.

6 The Secretariat has now completed all the actions identified by STW 33 for action by the Secretariat.

Action to be taken by the Sub-Committee

7 From the list of actions identified by STW 33 for action by the Sub-Committee, the Sub-Committee has yet to develop a harmonized format of ancillary certificates providing documentary evidence leading to the award of certificate of competency. To assist the Sub-Committee in its deliberations, a draft format is given at annex 4.

8 The Sub-Committee has on this matter also yet to develop appropriate anti-fraud training for personnel responsible for verification based on established standards for anti-fraud guidelines.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

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

ANNEX 1

MODIFIED DATA ENTRY SCREEN

The screenshot shows the International Maritime Organization (IMO) website. The browser's address bar displays the URL: <http://www.imo.org/home.asp>. The website's header features the IMO logo and the tagline "SAFER SHIPPING, CLEANER OCEANS". A navigation menu includes links for ABOUT IMO, NEWSROOM, SAFETY, MARINE ENVIRONMENT, LEGAL, HUMAN ELEMENT, FACILITATION, TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION, PUBLICATIONS, and INFORMATION RESOURCES. The main content area is titled "Certificate Verification" and contains the following text:

The STCW Convention requires Parties to maintain registers of certificates and endorsements for masters and officers and to make information available on the status of such certificates and endorsements to other Parties and companies which request verification of the authenticity and validity of certificates produced by seafarers.

Information on the correct point of contact to obtain certificate verification information via **e-mail address** has been given to IMO by some of the certificate-issuing authorities.

To check the validity of a certificate of competency by **e-mail**, first select the country of issue of the certificate from the list then click on "Go" button.

If you do NOT want to send an e-mail but you want to get full **contact details** then click on the "X" button.

Below this text is a dropdown menu with "Algeria" selected and a "Go" button. To the right of the main content is a sidebar with a list of links: Human Element, Training and Certification, STCW Convention, STCW Circulars, List of confirmed STCW Parties, Casualties - lessons learned, 1 February 2002 - STCW 95, Model Courses, Fraudulent Certificates, Certificate Verification (selected), Maritime Administrations, Fishing Vessels, and Maritime Training Institutes.

Below the dropdown menu, the text reads: "Direct access to certificate verification databases. The following STCW Parties maintain websites that provide direct access to registers of certificates and endorsements where their validity can be checked on line. To access the websites of the Parties listed, click on the links below:"

A list of links follows: [Antigua and Barbuda](#), [Bahamas](#), [Barbados](#), [Belize](#), [Bermuda](#), [Bhutan](#), [Bolivia](#), [Botswana](#), [Brazil](#), [Brunei Darussalam](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Burundi, \[Cambodia\]\(#\), \[Cameroon\]\(#\), \[Canada\]\(#\), \[Cape Verde\]\(#\), \[Cayman Islands\]\(#\), \[Central African Republic\]\(#\), \[Chad\]\(#\), \[Chile\]\(#\), \[China\]\(#\), \[Cote d'Ivoire\]\(#\), \[Croatia\]\(#\), \[Cuba\]\(#\), \[Cyprus\]\(#\), \[Czech Republic\]\(#\), \[Democratic Republic of Congo\]\(#\), \[Denmark\]\(#\), \[Djibouti\]\(#\), \[Dominican Republic\]\(#\), \[Ecuador\]\(#\), \[Egypt\]\(#\), \[El Salvador\]\(#\), \[Equatorial Guinea\]\(#\), \[Eritrea\]\(#\), \[Estonia\]\(#\), \[Ethiopia\]\(#\), \[Fiji\]\(#\), \[Finland\]\(#\), \[France\]\(#\), \[Gabon\]\(#\), \[Gambia\]\(#\), \[Ghana\]\(#\), \[Guinea\]\(#\), \[Guinea-Bissau\]\(#\), \[Guyana\]\(#\), \[Honduras\]\(#\), \[Hungary\]\(#\), \[Iceland\]\(#\), \[India\]\(#\), \[Indonesia\]\(#\), \[Iran\]\(#\), \[Iraq\]\(#\), \[Israel\]\(#\), \[Italy\]\(#\), \[Jamaica\]\(#\), \[Japan\]\(#\), \[Jordan\]\(#\), \[Kazakhstan\]\(#\), \[Kenya\]\(#\), \[Kiribati\]\(#\), \[Kuwait\]\(#\), \[Kyrgyzstan\]\(#\), \[Laos\]\(#\), \[Latvia\]\(#\), \[Lebanon\]\(#\), \[Lesotho\]\(#\), \[Liberia\]\(#\), \[Lithuania\]\(#\), \[Luxembourg\]\(#\), \[Madagascar\]\(#\), \[Malawi\]\(#\), \[Malaysia\]\(#\), \[Maldives\]\(#\), \[Mali\]\(#\), \[Malta\]\(#\), \[Marshall Islands\]\(#\), \[Mauritania\]\(#\), \[Mauritius\]\(#\), \[Mexico\]\(#\), \[Micronesia\]\(#\), \[Moldova\]\(#\), \[Mongolia\]\(#\), \[Montenegro\]\(#\), \[Morocco\]\(#\), \[Mozambique\]\(#\), \[Myanmar\]\(#\), \[Namibia\]\(#\), \[Nauru\]\(#\), \[Nepal\]\(#\), \[Netherlands\]\(#\), \[New Zealand\]\(#\), \[Nicaragua\]\(#\), \[Niger\]\(#\), \[Nigeria\]\(#\), \[North Macedonia\]\(#\), \[Norway\]\(#\), \[Oman\]\(#\), \[Pakistan\]\(#\), \[Palau\]\(#\), \[Panama\]\(#\), \[Papua New Guinea\]\(#\), \[Paraguay\]\(#\), \[Peru\]\(#\), \[Philippines\]\(#\), \[Poland\]\(#\), \[Portugal\]\(#\), \[Romania\]\(#\), \[Rwanda\]\(#\), \[Saint Kitts and Nevis\]\(#\), \[Saint Lucia\]\(#\), \[Saint Vincent and the Grenadines\]\(#\), \[Samoa\]\(#\), \[San Marino\]\(#\), \[Sao Tome and Principe\]\(#\), \[Saudi Arabia\]\(#\), \[Senegal\]\(#\), \[Serbia\]\(#\), \[Sierra Leone\]\(#\), \[Singapore\]\(#\), \[Slovakia\]\(#\), \[Slovenia\]\(#\), \[Solomon Islands\]\(#\), \[South Africa\]\(#\), \[South Korea\]\(#\), \[Spain\]\(#\), \[Sri Lanka\]\(#\), \[Sudan\]\(#\), \[Suriname\]\(#\), \[Swaziland\]\(#\), \[Sweden\]\(#\), \[Switzerland\]\(#\), \[Tajikistan\]\(#\), \[Tanzania\]\(#\), \[Thailand\]\(#\), \[Timor-Leste\]\(#\), \[Togo\]\(#\), \[Tonga\]\(#\), \[Trinidad and Tobago\]\(#\), \[Tunisia\]\(#\), \[Turkey\]\(#\), \[Turkmenistan\]\(#\), \[Tuvalu\]\(#\), \[Uganda\]\(#\), \[Ukraine\]\(#\), \[United Arab Emirates\]\(#\), \[United Kingdom\]\(#\), \[United States of America\]\(#\), \[Uruguay\]\(#\), \[Uzbekistan\]\(#\), \[Vanuatu\]\(#\), \[Venezuela\]\(#\), \[Vietnam\]\(#\), \[Yemen\]\(#\), \[Zambia\]\(#\), \[Zimbabwe\]\(#\).](#)

Below the list, the text reads: "STCW Parties are invited to provide details of their web-based registers of certificates and endorsements for inclusion in the list. Please email to: awinbow@imo.org".

A disclaimer at the bottom states: "Disclaimer: IMO has played no role in the verification process and cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions in the information obtained through use of this facility."

Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Back Forward Stop Search Favorites History Print Copy Paste

Address <http://www.imo.org/home.asp>

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
SAFER SHIPPING, CLEANER OCEANS

ABOUT IMO NEWSROOM SAFETY MARINE ENVIRONMENT LEGAL HUMAN ELEMENT FACILITATION TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PUBLICATIONS INFORMATION RESOURCES

Certificate Verification

To check the validity of a certificate of competency, please provide the following details:

Country Selected: **United Kingdom**

Certificate number:

Date of issue: 1 JAN 2003

Full name of holder:

Date of birth (Data protection rules may apply): 1 JAN 1987

STCW regulation: 11/1

Capacity (master, second engineer etc.): Master

Your name:

Your Organization/Company:

Please provide the email address you want to receive the certificate-issuing Party's response:

Now SUBMIT the information to the certificate-issuing Party.
A response should be made directly to your email address.

- Human Element
 - Training and Certification
 - STCW Convention
 - STCW Circulars
 - List of confirmed STCW Parties
 - Casualties - lessons learned
 - 1 February 2002 - STCW 95
 - Model Courses
 - Fraudulent Certificates
 - Certificate Verification**
 - Maritime Administrations
 - Fishing Vessels
 - Maritime Training Institutes

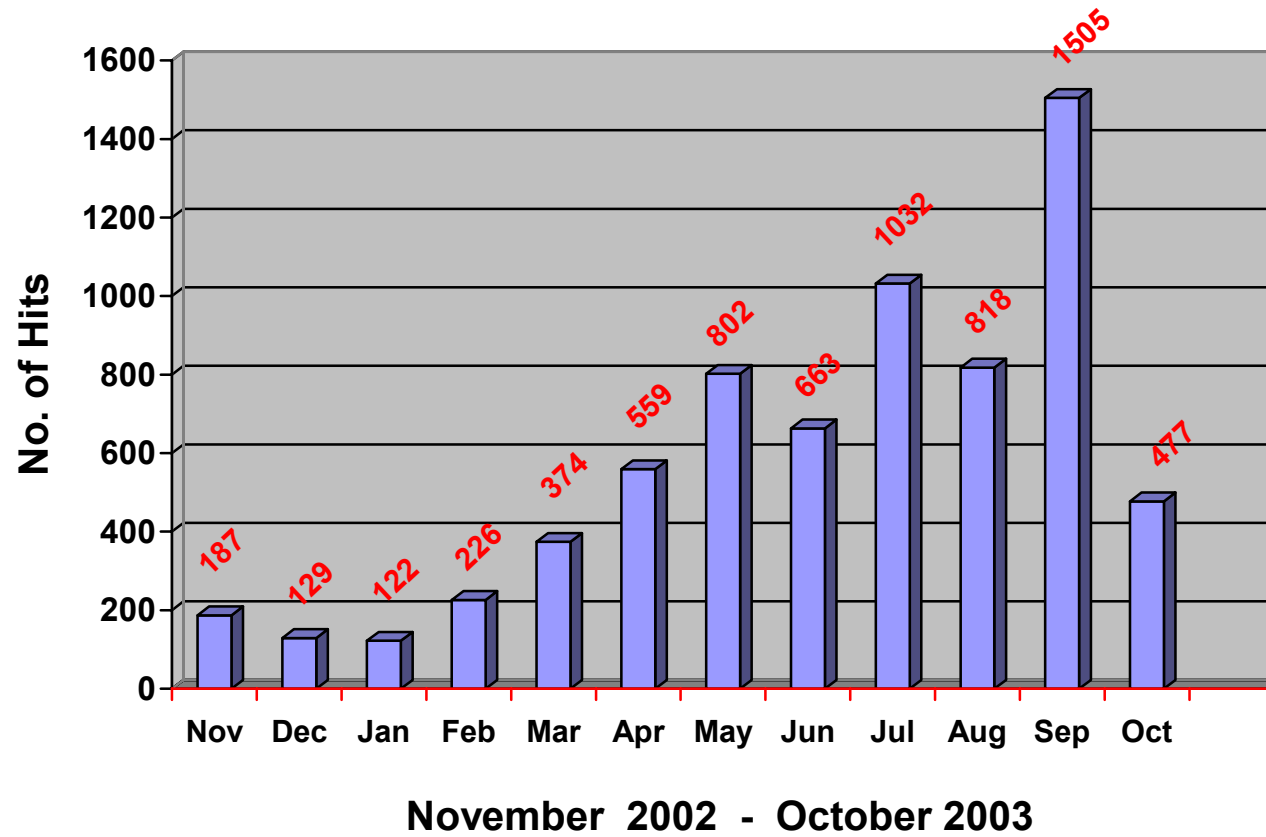
TOP SEARCH GET ACROBAT READER Copyright © 2002, International Maritime Organization

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Start Microsoft Active... Novell GroupWis... Document3 - Mic... International ... ClipBook Viewer ... Local intranet

ANNEX 2

USE OF IMO WEBSITE CERTIFICATE VERIFICATION FACILITY



ANNEX 3

SUMMARY OF REPORTS ON FRAUDULENT CERTIFICATES RECEIVED

REPORTS RECEIVED SINCE JANUARY 2002

Reported by	Flag of ship	Certificate claimed to be issued by	Comments
Italy	St Vincent and Grenadines	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Certificate considered fraudulent and confiscated. A case has been registered under Italian Law
Italy	Cyprus	Romania	Certificate considered fraudulent and confiscated. A case has been registered under Italian Law
Italy	Cyprus	Romania	Certificate considered fraudulent and confiscated. A case has been registered under Italian Law
Portugal	Panama	Sao Tome and Principe	Certificates considered fraudulent and confiscated
Portugal	Lebanon	Bolivia	Certificate considered fraudulent
Portugal	Lebanon	Liberia	Certificate considered fraudulent
Portugal	Lebanon	Belize	Certificate considered fraudulent
Panama	Panama	Mexico	Certificates confirmed fraudulent by the Mexican authorities
Greece	Greece	Ukraine	One fraudulent certificate reported by the ship's master
Malta	Malta	Georgia	Georgian Administration confirmed certificates as fraudulent
Mongolia	Mongolia	Myanmar	Certificate confirmed fraudulent by the Myanmar Administration
Bolivia	Bolivia	Thailand	The certificate was suspended and the holder was disembarked
Bolivia	Bolivia	Myanmar	The certificate was suspended and the holder was disembarked
P&I Luxemburg	Indonesia	Indonesia	Certificates reported fraudulent by the P&I Club in Luxemburg

ANNEX 4

DRAFT HARMONIZED FORMAT FOR ANCILLARY CERTIFICATES

Certificate No:

<Name of Institute>

<Address>

<Country name>

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

<Title>

This is to certify that

Date of Birth:

Nationality:

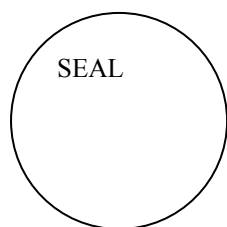
Passport No:

Seafarer I.D No:

Has satisfactorily completed a programme of training approved by the <Maritime Administration of <country's name>>, under the provisions of:

- Regulation < **number** > of the <Title of national regulation/law>, and
- Regulation <**number**> of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, and Section A-<**number paragraph**> of the STCW Code

Signature of Holder: _____

_____
Training Co-ordinator_____
Director, Maritime Academy

Date of Issue:

Date of Expiry: