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SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
39th session
Agenda item 7

STW 39/7/6
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**COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE STCW CONVENTION
AND THE STCW CODE**

Revalidation of Certificate

Submitted by Singapore

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This document contains a proposal to amend STCW Code B to provide a “window period” for revalidation of a Certificate
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 6
Related document:	STW 38/17

Introduction

1 The STW Sub-Committee, at its thirty-eighth session (22 to 26 January 2007), agreed that the review should address inconsistencies in the current text of the STCW Convention and STCW Code.

2 Currently, under regulation I/2, an endorsement required under Article VI of the Convention to attest the issue of a certificate shall expire as soon as the certificate expires, or is withdrawn, suspended or cancelled by the Party which issued it, and, in any case, not more than 5 years after the date of issue.

3 Under regulation I/11, every master, officer and radio operator holding a certificate issued or recognized under any chapter of the Convention, other than chapter VI, in order to continue to qualify for seagoing service, is required, at intervals not exceeding 5 years, to meet standards of medical fitness and establish continued professional competence in accordance with section A-I/11 of the STCW Code. The validity of the certificates of seafarers who comply with the requirements of Regulation I/11 can be further extended for a period of 5 years.

4 The current text of regulation I/11 and, sections A-I/11 and B-I/11 do not provide specific guidance on whether the validity of a certificate should be extended for a period of 5 years from the date of its expiry or from the date of application. It is the practice of some Administrations to extend the validity of the certificates of seafarers, who comply with the requirements of regulation I/11, for a period of 5 years from the anniversary date of the first issuance of the certificate, or subsequent revalidation. In some cases, this results in a certificate having a validity of more than 5 years from the date when such endorsements are made. This has been reported as a contravention of regulation I/2 by some Administrations.

5 It is a widely accepted practice in shipping to provide a 'window period' for example, three months before the expiry of ship certificates, for conducting renewal surveys under the Harmonized System of Surveys and Certification (HSSC) under 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols and MARPOL 73/78, with the retention of the anniversary date of the certificates. In order to encourage seafarers to make adequate preparation for the revalidation of certificates in advance, to reduce administrative burden and to remove ambiguity, it is proposed that guidance under STCW Code Section B-I/2, be amended, as set out in the annex, to allow a window period for revalidation of certificates.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to take the above information into account and decide as appropriate.

ANNEX

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART 'B' OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE

Section B-I/2

1. In Section B-I/2, insert the following sentence after paragraph 1.17:

“A certificate could be revalidated for a period of 5 years from the date of expiry of the certificate. An Administration may, if an application for revalidation is made within 6 months before the expiry of a certificate, revalidate the certificate until the 5th anniversary of the date of validity or any extension to the validity of the endorsement.”
