



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM6/5/2/1
SM 14/2/7/1
SM 9/2/2

Date: 07 December 2016

Marine Notice No. 38 of 2016

Extension of Validity of STCW Certificates

TO ALL SEAFARERS, EMPLOYERS, SHIP OWNERS and OPERATORS, FLAG STATE INSPECTORS, PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS, SURVEYORS

Summary

At its 97th session, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), noted with concern that some seafarers have not yet been issued certificates compliant with the STCW Convention as amended in 2010. It thus agreed to extend the transitional provisions for compliance to 01 July 2017, as published in MSC's circular - MSC.1/Circ.1560 dated 05 December 2016.

Introduction

1. The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) invites all South African seafarers, other seafarers holding South African Certificates of Equivalent Competency to note the contents of the aforementioned circular, attached as an appendix.
2. SAMSA invites all employers, ship owners, surveyors, Port State Control Officer (PSCO) and flag state administrators to note the contents of the said circular and act accordingly and request that you note the following:
 - 2.1. All Certificates of Proficiency issued by SAMSA that were valid for service at sea immediately on or before 31 December 2016, shall remain valid for service until 01 July 2017.
 - 2.2. All Certificates of Competency issued on or after 01 July 2012, where their endorsements expired or are valid until 31 December 2016 shall remain valid for service at sea until 01 July 2017.
 - 2.3. All endorsements for foreign certificates of competency issued on or after 01 July 2012, where the endorsement from their certificate issuing administration remains valid, the endorsement issued by SAMSA shall remain valid for service at sea until 01 July 2017.
3. All employers, surveyors, Port State Control Officer (PSCO) and Flag State administrators are requested to allow seafarers holding South African certificates service on their ships as permitted by MSC.1/Circ.1560.
4. This Marine Notice shall not substitute the needs to verify the authenticity of the certificate held by various seafarers during inspections, survey or the employment process.
5. Enquiries relating this Marine Notice and the Circular must be directed to:
 - 5.1. Verification of certificates: the Registrar of Seafarers via e-mail to seafarers@samsa.org.za.

5.2. Matters relating to the application for certificates: the Chief Examiner via e-mail to exams@samsa.org.za.

6. SAMSA encourages all seafarers holding STCW certificates to approach SAMSA for revalidation or renewal of their current certificates to new format certificates at the earliest possible time to avoid delays at the end of the extension.

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