



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries,
Shipping and Outer Islands
3rd Floor, Ken Lee Building
Edith Cavell Street
Port-Louis

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE Ref: 3 of 2016

Title: Implementation of STCW Manila 2010 Amendments

-Extension of new certification deadline by six months-

Notice to: Ship owners, Masters, Operators, Seafarers, Manning
Agents of Mauritian Seafarers and other Shipping
Industry stakeholders

The objectives of this Merchant Shipping Notice are to inform the seafarer community that the International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee has announced an extension of six months for the issuance of new certificates for compliance with the STCW Manila 2010 amendments.

All Mariners are informed that 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 and which is attached for your information.

As a result of this new issue, please note that;

- 1.** This Ministry invites all Mauritian seafarers and other seafarers holding Mauritian certificates to note the contents of the aforementioned circular attached as **an appendix**.
- 2.** This Ministry makes a call upon all Ship operators, managers, ship owners, surveyors, Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) and Flag State administrators to note the contents of the said circular and act accordingly and request that the following is noted:

- 2.1. All Certificates of Proficiency issued by this Ministry that were valid for service at sea immediately on or before 31 December 2016 shall remain valid for service until 30 June 2017.
3. All owners, operators, surveyors, Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) and Flag State administrators are requested to allow seafarers holding Mauritian certificates to be employed on their ships as permitted by MSC.1/Circ.1560.
4. This Merchant Shipping Notice shall not substitute the need to verify the authenticity of the certificate held by various seafarers during inspections, surveys or the employment process.
5. The Director of Shipping shall be contacted in case there is any enquiry related to this Merchant Shipping Notice and/or any other issues pertaining to the verification of any certificates issued by this Ministry.
6. All seafarers holding STCW certificates are encouraged to approach the Director of Shipping for the revalidation or renewal of their current certificates at the earliest possible to avoid delays at the end of the extension period.

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MSC.1/Circ.1560
5 December 2016

**ADVICE FOR PARTIES, ADMINISTRATIONS, PORT STATE CONTROL AUTHORITIES
AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN CASES WHERE
NOT ALL SEAFARERS CARRY CERTIFICATES AND ENDORSEMENTS MEETING THE
2010 MANILA AMENDMENTS TO THE STCW CONVENTION AND CODE FROM
1 JANUARY 2017**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-seventh session (21 to 25 November 2016), expressed concern about the implementation of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, in light of the imminent end, on 1 January 2017, of the transitional provisions laid down in the STCW Convention, regulation I/15.

2 The Committee noted that a large number of certificates needed to be issued by certificate-issuing Parties confirming that their seafarers complied with the provisions of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, and further noted that the provisions of regulation I/10 required Administrations to issue endorsements to masters, officers and radio personnel for service on their ships.

3 The Committee was particularly concerned about and regretted the fact that, so close to the end of the transitional period, seafarers in some States were reportedly unable to obtain certificates and/or the necessary endorsements required by regulation I/10 meeting the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention.

4 The Committee, therefore, urged all concerned, including certificate-issuing Parties and Administrations, to do their utmost to ensure that seafarers were issued with the appropriate certificates and necessary endorsements.

5 The Committee recognized that some seafarers on board ships may not yet hold their certificates or flag State endorsements meeting the 2010 Manila Amendments to the Convention and urged port State control authorities to take the above factors into consideration when taking action under the control procedures in article X and regulation I/4 of the STCW Convention. The Committee agreed that, in cases where a seafarer's documentation complied with the requirements in force immediately before 1 January 2017, but was not in accordance with the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, port State control authorities, until 1 July 2017, were recommended to take a pragmatic and practical approach during inspections and to notify the ships, seafarers and Administrations concerned accordingly.

6 The Committee also recommended that Administrations should inform recognized organizations issuing ISM Code certification under SOLAS 74 that, until 1 July 2017, if a seafarer's documentation was not in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, it would be sufficient to inform the Administration when assessing compliance with the provisions of the ISM Code.

7 Member States are invited to be guided accordingly and to bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all concerned, especially port State control authorities and recognized organizations.
