



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources,
Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands
4th Floor, LICI Building
John Kennedy Street
Port-Louis

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE Ref: 1 of 2016

Title: Transition procedures to Able Seafarer Deck and Engine under STCW manila 2010 amendments.

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

The objectives of this Merchant Shipping Notice is to inform the seafarer community of the new requirements under STCW Manila 2010 amendments for Able Seafarer Deck and Engine which will come into force as from 1 January 2017.

STCW Convention & Code: "The Manila Amendments".

As from the 1 January 2017, there will be changes in the appellation of Able Seaman to that of Able Seafarer (Deck) under STCW Regulation II/5 and a new appellation will be in force in the engine-room for those formerly engaged as Engine-Room Hand /Motorman to that of Able Seafarer (Engine) under STCW Regulation III/5

The purpose of this Merchant Shipping Notice is to clarify the transition process for all those concerned.

A. Transition from Able Seaman to Able Seafarer (Deck) under STCW Reg. II/5

This applies to those who are already holders of an Able Seaman (AB) Certificate issued under ILO Convention no.74

- 1.0** Seafarers are informed that the Able Seaman certificate issued previously is to be replaced by the Able Seafarer (Deck) Certificate of Proficiency by 1 January 2017.

- 2.0** Holders of an International Labour Organization (ILO) AB certificate of competency as Able Seaman issued previously will be deemed to have met these requirements. However such certificates will remain valid until 31st December 2016, holders must therefore complete transition to Able Seafarer (Deck) before that date.
- 3.0** The requirements for transition are that holders must:
- a.** have acquired a minimum of 12 months' seagoing service as Able seaman in the deck department aboard ships of 500gt or more (which are not fishing vessels) within the past five years.
 - b.** have completed the four elements of STCW Basic Safety training (STCW Reg VI/1).
 - c.** hold a Certificate of Proficiency as rating Forming part of a Navigational Watch (STCW Reg II/4).
 - d.** hold a Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (other than fast rescue boats), (STCW Reg VI/2.1).
 - e.** have completed an approved Security Awareness course (STCW Reg VI/6).
 - f.** be medically fit as per STCW Reg I/9 standards.
- 4.0** AB Certificates issued previously will be readily converted to the new format provided that the holders satisfy requirements as at 3 (a) to (e) above;
- 5.0** Holders of AB certificates issued outside Mauritius must approach the administration of the country that issued the certificate to apply for an Able Seafarer (Deck) certificate OR may sit for the examination locally provided that all entry requirements are satisfied.
- 6.0** Seafarers whose sea service does not meet these requirements must complete the training course and pass an oral/practical examination for the issue of an "Able Seafarer (Deck) Certificate of Proficiency.

B. Transition from Motorman/Engine Room Hand to Able Seafarer (Engine) under STCW Reg III/5
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- 1.0** Formerly, all those serving in the engine-room of a seagoing ship were engaged as Oilers/Wipers/Motorman or Engine-Room Hand .The only qualifications for keeping engine room watches were certificates as "Ratings forming part of an engine-room watch".

- 2.0** Under the Manila amendments of the STCW Convention Reg III/5, a new grade has been introduced under the appellation of “Able Seafarer (Engine)”.
- 3.0** The new Certificate of Proficiency as “Able Seafarer (Engine)” would be mandatory by the 1 January 2017.
- 4.0** To be in line with the new requirements, any seafarer presently engaged in any of the above-mentioned capacities while holding a Certificate as **Rating Forming part of an Engineering watch** and willing to serve as Able Seafarer (Engine) shall require the following;
- a. The four elements of Basic Safety Training (STCW Reg VI/I).
 - b. hold a Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (other than fast rescue boats), (STCW Reg VI/2.1).
 - c. has completed an approved Security Awareness course (STCW Reg VI/6).
 - d. be medically fit as per STCW Reg I/9 standards.
 - e. has acquired a minimum of 12 months’ seagoing service in any capacity mentioned at (1) above in the engine department aboard seagoing ships powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more. Those ships shall not be fishing vessels and the sea service shall have been acquired within the past five years.
- 5.0** Any seafarer not satisfying anyone of the above criteria shall be required to complete the appropriate training accordingly. Upon successful completion of the approved course, a Certificate of Proficiency as Able Seafarer (Engine) will be issued by the Director of Shipping.

All those concerned are kindly requested to contact the Shipping Division of the Ministry for further clarifications if needed.

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