

**IMMARBE**

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

**ENDORSEMENT OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY FOR RATINGS**

TO ALL SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, RESIDENT AGENTS, GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS & CLASS SOCIETIES.

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**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Seafarers Department Notice is to provide all Shipowners, Operators, Deputy Registrars and other parties with our requirements for the issuance of an endorsement attesting recognition of the Certificates of Competency of ratings serving on board Belize-registered Vessels.

**2. BACKGROUND**

The Government of Belize in its International Maritime Organization Convention Act, 2008 empowered IMMARBE to issue circulars and directives related to the Maritime Conventions and Protocols acceded to by Belize.

The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, requires that seafarers serving on board hold an appropriate certificate of competency entitling the lawful holder thereof to serve in the capacity and perform the functions involved at the level of responsibility specified therein on a ship of the type, tonnage, power and means of propulsion concerned whilst engaged on the particular voyage concerned.

This requirement is also connected to the obligations of Maritime Administrations under the International Ship & Port Facility Security Code, which requires its parties to be able to exchange security related information, including identity of seafarers, in a prompt and efficient manner as well as with the entry into force of the ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 which is expected to enter into force in the near future.

**In keeping with our obligation to ensure that the provisions of these regulations are complied with, the Belize Flag Administration has decided to implement the issuance of endorsements certificates attesting recognition of the Certificates of Competency and Training for ratings issued under the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.**

### **3. APPLICATION**

**3.1. This Notice applies to all Belize-registered Vessels with effect on 15 May 2009, with the exception of:**

- 3.1.1. Fishing vessels,**
- 3.1.2. Ships of war, troopships or other vessels owners or operated by a State and engaged only on governmental non-commercial service,**
- 3.1.3. Pleasure yachts not engaged in commercial trade,**
- 3.1.4. Un-manned or non-propelled vessels,**
- 3.1.5. Vessels, other than those engaged in the carriage of passengers, trading in territorial waters of any one country.**

**3.2. Existing vessels, e. g.: those vessels registered in Belize as of 15 May 2009, will be granted a period of 6 months to comply with these requirements. This period will end on 15 November 2009.**

**3.3. New vessels, e. g.: those vessels registered in Belize on or after 15 May 2009 are required to comply forthwith.**

### **4. DEFINITIONS**

**4.1. For the purpose of these regulations, ratings are defined as a member of the ship's crew other than the Master, an officer or an engineer, including but not limited to: Watchkeeping Deck & Engine Ratings, Deck & Engine Ratings, Boatswain, Chief Cook, Cook, Steward, Mess Man, Oilers, Motorman, Wipers, Fitters, Welders, General Purpose Seaman, Ordinary Seaman, Deck & Engine Cadets, Chief Electricians, Electricians, Carpenters, Fireman, Pumpman, Reeferman, Refrigeration Engineer, Electrical Engineers and others.**

### **5. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BELIZE ENDORSEMENTS FOR RATINGS.**

**5.1. Application Form, F-008-EAF - All applicable information in English must be entered on the application. Use a typewriter or print legibly. Failure to properly complete this application or**

submit the required supporting proofs will result in rejection of this application or delay its processing.

**5.2. Copy of Passport and Seamen's book-** Copy of passport and seaman's book pages containing the applicant's general information.

**5.3. Certificate of Competency -** Copy of the Certificate of Competency issued by the Maritime Administration. It must be issued by a country appearing on the White List and approved by IMMARBE. In the absence of a Certificate of Competency, the applicants must submit copies of their Certificates of mandatory minimum training requirements mandated by Chapter V and VI of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended.

**5.4. Medical Fitness Certificate F-006 MFC** –The examination must be carried out by a licensed and certified practitioner. This form must be valid for not less than 6 months from to date submitting the application for endorsement.

**5.5. Passport Photographs (total three)** – Facial front view of applicant, passport size, taken within one year preceding application with applicant's name printed on reverse side to avoid miss placement of photos on other applications. Photos should be 1.75" x 1.75".

**5.6. Statutory Instrument No.99 of 1999** – A copy of this document was provided to the applicant prior issuance of the CRA. Prior to the issuance of the CRA the applicant was examined with regard to the functions and responsibilities and found to have a satisfactory knowledge of same. A written affidavit to this effect must be submitted along the application form and documentation

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION**

The above-detailed measures must be implemented forthwith; therefore, owners and operators of Belize-registered Vessels to which these regulations apply are required to submit to our Administration complete applications for the issuance of Belize Endorsements for the ratings on board their ships within the time frame detailed in Paragraph 3.2 and 3.3 above.

## **7. INSPECTIONS**

All Belize registered vessels may be inspected by any of our authorized Flag State Inspectors in order to verify compliance with these requirements

## 8. SURVEYS

Recognized Organizations and Class Societies are required to verify compliance with these regulations during surveys related to the Safety Management Certificate (SMC).

## 9. INFORMATION

For any questions, information or queries on these requirements please contact:

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This Circular was issued on Belize City Belize on the fourteenth (14) day of May 2009.

  
Capt. Encarnacion Samaniego.  
Director General

  
Eng. Abilio Dominguez BSc.  
Head of Seafarers Department