MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR TO SHIPOWNERS
NO. 26 OF 2016

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Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of all Singapore ship owners, ship managers, operators, agents, masters, and crew members

(A)IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2010 MANILA AMENDMENTS TO STCW CONVENTION
(B)RENAMING OF IDA (INFO-COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE) TO IMDA (INFO-COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY)

(A)IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2010 MANILA AMENDMENTS TO STCW CONVENTION

1. The 2010 Manila Amendments (Manila Amendments) to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (the STCW Convention) entered into force on 1 Jan 2012. The five-year transitional period will end on 1st Jan 2017 and the Manila Amendments will be fully implemented from 1st Jan 2017.

Competence standards and certification requirements relating to the Manila Amendments

2. All Deck Officers, Marine Engineer Officers, Radio Operators and Electro-Technical Officers (ETO) working on board sea-going ships will be required to have their Certificates of Competency (COCs) revalidated to comply with the provisions of the Manila Amendments. Officers' COCs expiring on or before 31 Dec 2016 which are not revalidated must be replaced. Requests for holders of such COCs to remain on board beyond 1st Jan 2017 will not be considered as this is not permitted under the STCW Convention.

3. Ratings serving as Able Seafarer Deck (AS (Deck)), Able Seafarer Engine (AS (Engine)) or Electro-Technical Rating (ETR) must hold appropriate Certificate of Proficiency (COP) that complies with the Manila Amendments.

4. Ratings forming part of navigational or engine room watches and qualified under Regulations II/4 and III/4 respectively of the STCW Convention, as amended in 1995, may continue to serve on board using their existing COP.

5. A seafarer that does not comply with the above will not be allowed to serve on board Singapore ships.

Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD)

6. Demand for AS (Deck) and AS (Engine) is expected to vary accordingly with the nature of operation of the ship. As stated in the STCW Convention Regulation I/14, every seafarer who performs any functions specified in Table A-II/5 (e.g. contributing to berthing and anchoring operations) or A-III/5 (e.g. contributing to shipboard maintenance and operation of equipment and machinery) must hold an appropriate COP issued under STCW Convention Regulation II/5 or III/5 respectively.

7. Electrical Officers, Electrical Engineers and Electricians must also hold appropriate certificates such as "COC-ETO" issued in accordance with Regulation III/6 or "COP-ETR" issued in accordance with Regulation III/7 of the Manila Amendments respectively

8. The Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD) issued by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) to Singapore ships, listing the minimum number of operational crew required and their required qualifications for each capacity, will remain unchanged. Singapore ships will not be required to replace their existing MSMD and it must continue to be placed on board the ship.

9. An explanatory note in **Annex A** of this circular is to be printed and attached to the ship's MSMD. The explanatory note may be used as MPA's requirements for MSMD when implementing the Manila Amendments, if requested during port State control inspections.

Amendments to the format of the Certificate of Endorsement (COE) issued to Deck Officers, Marine Engineer Officers and Radio Operators

10. Certificates of Endorsement (COE) issued prior to 24 Nov 2016 currently contain the phrase "STCW, 1978, as amended in 1995". With effect from 24 Nov 2016, a COE issued on or after 24 Nov 2016 will have that phrase replaced with "STCW 1978, as amended". A COE that was issued prior to 24 Nov 2016 containing the phrase "STCW 1978, as amended in 1995" will remain valid until the date of expiry stated in that COE.

(B)RENAMING OF IDA (INFO-COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE) TO IMDA (INFO-COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY)

11. The Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) has been restructured and a new statutory board, Info-communications Media Development Authority ("IMDA"), has been formed which takes over the functions and responsibilities of IDA relating to issuance of radio operator certificates. With effect from 24 Nov 2016, COEs issued for Radio Operators will have the logo and stamp of IMDA. A COE issued by IDA prior to 24 Nov 2016 will remain valid until the date of expiry stated in that COE.

12. Singapore ships are advised to place a copy of this circular and the accompanying annexes on board to serve as a clarification of MPA's requirements.

13. Any queries regarding this circular should be directed to the Seafarers Management Department (Email: mmo@mpa.gov.sg; Tel: +65 6375 6224).

TAN SUAN JOW
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE



ANNEX A

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANTORY NOTE TO THE MINIMUM SAFE MANNING DOCUMENT (MSMD), ISSUED TO SINGAPORE SHIPS, IN RELATION TO RATINGS' CERTIFICATION UNDER THE 2010 MANILA AMENDMENTS TO STCW CONVENTION

1. Under STCW Regulation I/14, the International Safety Management Code (ISM) and IMO Resolution A.1047 (27), companies have the responsibility, inter alia, to ensure that seafarers assigned to any ships are appropriately qualified and hold certificates in accordance with the provisions of the 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention (Manila Amendments) and the manning level is sufficient to ensure safe operations of the ship.

2. The Manila Amendments introduces new competence standards and certifications for ratings, namely, Able Seafarer Deck (AS (Deck)), Able Seafarer Engine (AS (Engine)) and Electro-technical Rating (ETR).

Deck and Engine Ratings

3. A rating that performs any of the functions specified in STCW Table A-II/5 (e.g. contributing to berthing and anchoring operations), A-III/5 (e.g. contributing to shipboard maintenance and operation of equipment and machinery) must hold a Certificate of Proficiency (COP) issued under STCW Convention Regulation II/5, III/5, respectively. A COP issued under STCW Convention Regulation II/5 or III/5 is of a higher grade in terms of qualifications and experience to COP issued under Regulation II/4 or III/4 respectively.

4. Shipboard personnel holding a COP issued under STCW Convention Regulation II/5 for AS (Deck) can be considered as part of the total number of personnel deployed on board to meet the manning requirements for the capacity - "Ratings forming part of navigational watch – II/4" that is indicated on the ship's MSMD. Likewise, shipboard personnel holding a COP issued under STCW Convention Regulation III/5 for AS (Engine) can be considered as part of the total number of personnel deployed on board to meet the manning requirements for the capacity - "Ratings forming part of an engine room watch- III/4" that is indicated on the ship's MSMD.

Electro-Technical Officers (ETO) and Electro-Technical Ratings (ETR)

5. The requirement for ETO or ETR is not stated on the MSMD and is covered under “other engine-room personnel”. The company shall assess whether there is a need to carry specialist officers (e.g. electrical officers) or ratings (electricians) based on the ship’s operational requirements. If they are to be deployed on ships, officers who perform electrical, electronic and control engineering at operational level shall be holders of COC-ETO and ratings performing similar functions at support level shall hold a COP-ETR. Holders of COC-ETO issued by foreign maritime administration must be issued with MPA’s COE prior working on board Singapore registered ships. Flag state endorsement (MPA’s COE) for holders of COP-ETR is not required.

6. The MSMD issued to Singapore ships lists the minimum number of operational crew required and their qualifications which the Company has assessed and sought approval from MPA prior to issuance. In the event that there is any change in shipboard operations, equipment or any other reasons which may affect the manning level, companies are requested to re-submit application for new MSMDs using the assessment form via email to the Seafarers Management Department (mmo@mpa.gov.sg).

7. A copy of this note should be attached as a supplement to the MSMD and read in conjunction with the MSMD when assessing whether minimum manning requirements are met.

8. Any queries or requests for clarification can be addressed to our Seafarers Management Department (email: mmo@mpa.gov.sg; Tel: +65 6375 6224).