
TO: Related departments of CCS Headquarters; Branches and Offices; and Ship Companies

Notice of Implementation of BMA Information Bulletin No.129
- STCW 2010 Amendments

1. General

The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) recently issued BMA Information Bulletin No.129 to ship-owners, managers and their manning agents, masters, Bahamas Recognized Organizations and Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors. This bulletin provides guidance on the implementation of the 2010 amendments to the International Convention On Standard of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW) and the Seafarers Training, Certification and Watch-keeping Seafarers Code (STCW Code). The 2010 amendments to the STCW and STCW Code (2010 amendments) were adopted on June 20, 2010 and will enter into force on January 1, 2012. The finalized text of the 2010 amendments has been issued to all STCW parties by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The relevant Bahamas legislation relating to seafarers has been revised to incorporate the 2010 amendments and BMA Information Bulletins and forms, including the Safe Manning Documents, are being drafted and/or revised to ensure compliance with the relevant revised or new STCW and STCW Code requirements.

In order to ensure effective and timely implementation, the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) will continue to liaise with industry stakeholders and provide any required guidance. Owner should take the relevant measures to ensure compliance with the appropriate provisions of the 2010 amendments.

2. Responsibilities

2.1. Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA)

The BMA is the Administration in accordance with provisions of the STCW and accordingly remains responsible for:

- .ii providing national requirements and appropriate guidance to ensure compliance with the STCW requirements,
- .iii ensuring that all applicable persons either onboard or intending to serve onboard a Bahamian registered vessels are issued with the relevant STCW documentation,
- .iv ensuring any training is duly approved,
- .v developing an electronic database to enable verification of documents issued by the BMA.

2.2. Company and master

- 2.2.1 The purpose of these requirements, the master is deemed to be the person in overall responsibility of the vessel.
- 2.2.2 The Company remains responsible for ensuring that the ship is manned in compliance with the Safe Manning Document by properly trained, qualified, certificated and medically fit seafarers. The Company must verify that the seafarer being assigned to the vessel have the required valid certification.
- 2.2.3 The master remains responsible for ensuring that all persons, prior to undertaking their assigned shipboard duties have valid medical fitness certificates and valid original certificates or documentary evidence of the required training to undertake their assigned tasks.
- 2.2.4 The Company and the master remain responsible for ensuring that an hours of rest schedule is provided on board.

2.3. Seafarer

- 2.3.1. The seafarer remains responsible for ensuring that they have onboard the appropriate original documentary evidence of their training and qualification.
- 2.3.2. The seafarer should ensure that they comply with the hours of rest provisions in order to ensure that they are fit to undertake their shipboard duties.

2.4. Record of Sea Service

- 2.4.1. Where required and where verification of competency is based on experience and/or training, the seafarer should maintain a record of sea service that includes:
 - Name of person
 - Vessel details: IMO No., Gross tonnage, Propulsion power
 - Capacity or rank onboard
 - Joining and leaving dates
 - Voyage description.

2.4.2. The information above should be recorded in a Seaman's Record Book (SRB) or discharge book or discharge certificates signed by the Master or Chief Engineer of the respective ships and bear the stamp of the affected ship.

2.4.3. In the absence of a SRB, discharge book or discharge certificate, the Company may provide a letter containing the information of approved seagoing service specified in section 2.4.1. The letter should be on Company letterhead with full contact details and signed by the master or a responsible official of the Company.

2.4.4. In addition to the above, cadets, apprentices, new entrants or any applicants undergoing supervised training should ensure that any assigned tasks and or duties are approved by a certificated officer and recorded in an approved training record book.

3. *Transitional period*

3.1 The BMA will apply the transitional periods in accordance with the provisions of the 2010 amendments.

3.2. The BMA will accept application for the renewal and or revalidation of existing certification and/or endorsements based on the requirements of STCW and STCW Code prior to the 2010 amendments subject to the application for such certification being received prior to 31 December 2011. The certificates issued under this acceptance will be valid for no longer than 5 years.

3.3. Until 01 January 2017, the BMA will accept applications for the issuance, recognition and endorsement of certificates based on the requirement of STCW and STCW Code prior to the 2010 amendments for seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course before 1 July 2013. For applications relating to this acceptance, the applicant shall provide documentary evidence that the seagoing service and/or training had commenced prior to 01 July 2013.

3.4. Until 1 January 2014, persons with designated security duties, including anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery-related activities, who commenced an approved seagoing service prior to 01 January 2012 shall be able to demonstrate competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/6-2 of the 2010 amendments by:

- .i having documentary evidence of approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel with designated security duties for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years; or
- .ii having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required in 3.4.i above; or
- .iii having documentary evidence of passing an approved test; or
- .iv having documentary evidence of successful completion of approved training.

3.5. Until 1 January 2014, seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship, which is required to comply with the provisions of the International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS Code), on the business of that ship as part of the ship's complement without designated security duties, who commenced an approved seagoing service prior to 01 January 2012 shall be able to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of A-VI/6.4 of the 2010 amendments by:

.i having documentary evidence of approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel, for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years; or having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required in paragraph 3.5.i above; or

.iii having documentary evidence of passing an approved test; or

.iv having documentary evidence of successful completion of approved training.

3.6. Until 01 January 2012, the BMA will accept applications for the issuance, recognition and endorsement of Able Seafarer certificates based on the requirement of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 74 as satisfying the requirement of the 2010 amendments for Able Seafarer Deck. For applications relating to this acceptance, the application for such certification must be received prior to 31 December 2011 and the certificates issued under this acceptance will be valid for no longer than 5 years.

3.7. Until 01 January 2017, the BMA will accept applications for the renewal and/or revalidation of existing Able Seaman certificate based on the requirement of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention no. 74 as satisfying the requirement of the 2010 amendments for Able Seafarer Deck.

3.8. Seafarers for certification as ratings in accordance with STCW Regulations II/5 and III/5 maybe considered as complying with these requirements if they have served as a rating forming a part of the navigational or engineering watch respectively for a period of not less than 12 months that should have been served between 01 January 2007 and 31 December 2011. Applications for such certification must be received prior to 31 December 2011.

3.9. Rating certificates issued under paragraph 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 above shall be issued by the BMA to Bahamian nationals. Other seafarers who are not Bahamian nationals serving onboard Bahamian registered ships maybe considered for certification by the BMA provided that the training has been approved by a STCW party that the Bahamas has a recognized agreement or the assessment and seagoing service has been carried out onboard a Bahamian registered ship and the onboard training has been approved by the BMA.

4. Approved training

4.1. Where there is a requirement for approved training for STCW Chapter V and VI, the training may be approved and or accepted by the BMA in accordance with the guidance outlined in BMA Information Bulletin 86.

4.2. Training for ratings to satisfy the requirements of Chapter II and III of the 2010 amendments shall be approved by an STCW party.

5. *Electronic database*

5.1 The BMA has developed an electronic system, Bahamas Online Seafarer System (BOSS) which enables registered users to securely and track the process of the application. Information on the system is available in BMA Information Bulletins 107 and 108. Potential users should contact The BMA to register for BOSS.

5.2. BOSS is being enhanced to satisfy the verifications requirements of 2010 amendment and to enable applications for all certificates required in accordance with the 2010 amendments.

6. *Application for STCW certification*

6.1. Applications for STCW certification shall be submitted taking into consideration the guidance outlined in BMA Information Bulletins 81, 86, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 115, 118, 121, 124 and the transitional provisions outlined in *section 3* above.

6.1.1. All parties should ensure that all the required supporting documentation, including valid medical fitness certificate, are submitted because the lack of supporting documentation is the most common reason for the delay in processing applications for seafarers documents. The approach outlined in 2.4.3, i.e. letter from the Company, may also be utilized where certification requires evidence of having served in a certain capacity or undertaking certain duties or function and this capacity, duty or function is not specified in the SRB, discharge book or discharge certificate. The letter may also be issued by the master subject to the letter bearing the stamp of the vessel.

6.2. Flag State Endorsement (STCW I/10)

6.2.1. All parties should note that currently the BMA is only required to issue a documentary proof of application for a Flag State Endorsement of a Certificate of Competency.

6.2.2. Effective 01 January 2012, a flag state Endorsement will be required for a Certificate of Proficiency issued to officers in accordance with 2010 amendments Regulation V/1-1 (Oil and Chemical tankers advanced training) and V/1-2 (liquefied gas tanker advanced training). Effective 01 January 2012, the BMA will issue a documentary proof of application for this application in

accordance with this requirement.

7. Enquiries

7.1. Any queries relating to the 2010 amendments can be directed to the BMA's Seafarers & Manning Department at: stcw@bahamasmaritime.com

SUMMARY

Forwarding BMA Information Bulletin No.129, in which provides guidance to the ship-owners, managers and their manning agents, masters, Bahamas recognized organizations and Bahamas approved nautical inspectors on the implementation of the 2010 amendments.

ACTION REQUESTED

All the CCS branches and offices are required to organize the study and training of this Information Bulletin. Auditors should remind the Bahamian-flagged company and vessels to pay attention to this bulletin and the effective date of 2010 amendments. All the parties concerned should be fully in compliance with the requirements of this bulletin during the transitional period and after 2010 amendments entered into force.

Attachment: BMA Information Bulletin No. 129, Total 6 pages

**For any problem please contact the Certification Management Dept. of CCS
Headquarters without hesitation**



The Bahamas Maritime Authority

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 129

STCW 2010 AMENDMENTS

Guidance and Instructions for Ship-owners, Managers and their Manning Agents, Masters, Bahamas Recognised Organisations and Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors

Note: This Document should be read in conjunction with BMA Information Bulletins 81, 86, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 115, 118, 121, 124 and IMO Resolutions A. 772 (18), A.890 (21), A. 891 (21), A. 955 (23), A. 999 (25) and A. 1024 (26)

1. **General**

1.1. This Bulletin provides guidance on the implementation of the 2010 amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW) and the Seafarers Training, Certification and Watch-keeping Seafarers Code (STCW Code) and is relevant to the implementation of BMA Information Bulletin Nos:

- .i 81 (*BMA Fees Schedule*),
- .ii 86 (*Approval of STCW Training*),
- .iii 103 (*Seafarers Medical Examination and Certificates*),
- .iv 105 (*Guidance on Manning & Training for Offshore*),
- .v 106 (*Tanker Training & Certificates/Endorsement*),
- .vi 107 (*Bahamian Seaman's Record Book*),
- .vii 108 (*Bahamian Flag State Endorsements*),
- .viii 115 (*Safe Manning Requirements*),
- .ix 118 (*Certificate of Proficiency for Ship Security Officer*),
- .x 121 (*Countries recognised by The Bahamas in accordance with STCW Regulation I/10*) and
- .xi 124 (*Bahamas Seafarers Application Form*)
- .xii 130 (*Training and Certification*)

1.2. The 2010 amendments to the STCW and STCW Code (2010 amendments) were adopted on 20 June 2010 and will enter into force on 01st January 2012. The finalised text of the 2010 amendments has been issued to all STCW parties by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

- 1.3. The relevant Bahamas legislation relating to seafarers has been revised to incorporate the 2010 amendments and BMA Information Bulletins and forms, including the Safe Manning Documents, are being drafted and/or revised to ensure compliance with the relevant revised or new STCW and STCW Code requirements.
- 1.4. In order to ensure effective and timely implementation, the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) will continue to liaise with industry stakeholders and provide any required guidance. Owner should take the relevant measures to ensure compliance with the appropriate provisions of the 2010 amendments.

2. Responsibilities

2.1. Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA)

The BMA is the Administration in accordance with provisions of the STCW and accordingly remains responsible for:

- .ii Providing national requirements and appropriate guidance to ensure compliance with the STCW requirements,
- .iii ensuring that all applicable persons either onboard or intending to serve onboard a Bahamian registered vessels are issued with the relevant STCW documentation,.
- .iv ensuring any training is duly approved, .
- .v developing an electronic database to enable verification of documents issued by the BMA.

2.2. Company¹ and master

- 2.2.1. The purpose of these requirements, the master is deemed to be the person in overall responsibility of the vessel.
- 2.2.2. The Company remains responsible for ensuring that the ship is manned in compliance with the Safe Manning Document by properly trained, qualified, certificated and medically fit seafarers. The Company must verify that the seafarer being assigned to the vessel have the required valid certification.

¹ Company is the entity responsible for the management of the ship in accordance with the ISM Code. For ships that are not required to comply with the ISM, Company is the entity as defined in STCW Convention Regulation I/1.23)

- 2.2.3. The master remains responsible for ensuring that all persons, prior to undertaking their assigned shipboard duties have valid medical fitness certificates and valid original certificates or documentary evidence of the required training to undertake their assigned tasks.
- 2.2.4. The Company and the master remain responsible for ensuring that an hours of rest schedule is provided on board.

2.3. Seafarer

- 2.3.1. The seafarer remains responsible for ensuring that they have onboard the appropriate original documentary evidence of their training and qualification.
- 2.3.2. The seafarer should ensure that they comply with the hours of rest provisions in order to ensure that they are fit to undertake their shipboard duties.

2.4. Record of Sea Service

- 2.4.1. Where required and where verification of competency is based on experience and/or training, the seafarer should maintain a record of sea service that includes:
- Name of person
 - Vessel details: IMO No., Gross tonnage, Propulsion power
 - Capacity or rank onboard
 - Joining and leaving dates
 - Voyage description.
- 2.4.2. The information above should be recorded in a Seaman's Record Book (SRB) or discharge book or discharge certificates signed by the Master or Chief Engineer of the respective ships and bear the stamp of the affected ship.
- 2.4.3. In the absence of a SRB, discharge book or discharge certificate, the Company may provide a letter containing the information of approved seagoing service specified in section 2.4.1. The letter should be on Company letterhead with full contact details and signed by the master or a responsible official of the Company.
- 2.4.4. In addition to the above, cadets, apprentices, new entrants or any applicants undergoing supervised training should ensure that any assigned tasks and or duties are approved by a certificated officer and recorded in an approved training record book.

3. Transitional period

- 3.1. The BMA will apply the transitional periods in accordance with the provisions of the 2010 amendments.
- 3.2. The BMA will accept application for the renewal and or revalidation of existing certification and/or endorsements based on the requirements of STCW and STCW Code prior to the 2010 amendments subject to the application for such certification being received prior to 31 December 2011. The certificates issued under this acceptance will be valid for no longer than 5 years.
- 3.3. Until 01 January 2017, the BMA will accept applications for the issuance, recognition and endorsement of certificates based on the requirement of STCW and STCW Code prior to the 2010 amendments for seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course before 1 July 2013. For applications relating to this acceptance, the applicant shall provide documentary evidence that the seagoing service and/or training had commenced prior to 01 July 2013.
- 3.4. Until 1 January 2014, persons with designated security duties, including anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery-related activities, who commenced an approved seagoing service prior to 01 January 2012 shall be able to demonstrate competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/6-2 of the 2010 amendments by:
 - .i having documentary evidence of approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel with designated security duties for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years; or
 - .ii having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required in 3.4.i above; or
 - .iii having documentary evidence of passing an approved test; or
 - .iv having documentary evidence of successful completion of approved training.
- 3.5. Until 1 January 2014, seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship, which is required to comply with the provisions of the International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS Code), on the business of that ship as part of the ship's complement without designated security duties, who commenced an approved seagoing service prior to 01 January 2012 shall be able to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of A-VI/6.4 of the 2010 amendments by:
 - .i having documentary evidence of approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel, for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years; or

- .ii having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required in paragraph 3.5.i above; or
 - .iii having documentary evidence of passing an approved test; or
 - .iv having documentary evidence of successful completion of approved training.
- 3.6. Until 01 January 2012, the BMA will accept applications for the issuance, recognition and endorsement of Able Seafarer certificates based on the requirement of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 74 as satisfying the requirement of the 2010 amendments for Able Seafarer Deck. For applications relating to this acceptance, the application for such certification must be received prior to 31 December 2011 and the certificates issued under this acceptance will be valid for no longer than 5 years.
- 3.7. Until 01 January 2017, the BMA will accept applications for the renewal and/or revalidation of existing Able Seaman certificate based on the requirement of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention no. 74 as satisfying the requirement of the 2010 amendments for Able Seafarer Deck.
- 3.8. Seafarers for certification as ratings in accordance with STCW Regulations II/5 and III/5 maybe considered as complying with these requirements if they have served as a rating forming a part of the navigational or engineering watch respectively for a period of not less than 12 months that should have been served between 01 January 2007 and 31 December 2011. Applications for such certification must be received prior to 31 December 2011.
- 3.9. Rating certificates issued under paragraph 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 above shall be issued by the BMA to Bahamian nationals. Other seafarers who are not Bahamian nationals serving onboard Bahamian registered ships maybe considered for certification by the BMA provided that the training has been approved by a STCW party that the Bahamas has a recognised agreement or the assessment and seagoing service has been carried out onboard a Bahamian registered ship and the onboard training has been approved by the BMA.

4. Approved training

- 4.1. Where there is a requirement for approved training for STCW Chapter V and VI, the training maybe approved and or accepted by the BMA in accordance with the guidance outlined in BMA Information Bulletin 86.
- 4.2. Training for ratings to satisfy the requirements of Chapter II and III of the 2010 amendments shall be approved by an STCW party.

5. Electronic database

- 5.1. The BMA has developed an electronic system, Bahamas Online Seafarer System (BOSS) which enables registered users to securely and track the process of the application. Information on the system is available in BMA Information Bulletins 107 and 108. Potential users should contact The BMA to register for BOSS.
- 5.2. BOSS is being enhanced to satisfy the verifications requirements of 2010 amendment and to enable applications for all certificates required in accordance with the 2010 amendments.

6. Application for STCW certification

- 6.1. Applications for STCW certification shall be submitted taking into consideration the guidance outlined in BMA Information Bulletins 81, 86, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 115, 118, 121, 124 and the transitional provisions outlined in *section 3* above.
 - 6.1.1. All parties should ensure that all the required supporting documentation, including valid medical fitness certificate, are submitted because the lack of supporting documentation is the most common reason for the delay in processing applications for seafarers documents. The approach outlined in 2.4.3, i.e. letter from the Company, may also be utilized where certification requires evidence of having served in a certain capacity or undertaking certain duties or function and this capacity, duty or function is not specified in the SRB, discharge book or discharge certificate. The letter may also be issued by the master subject to the letter bearing the stamp of the vessel.

6.2. Flag State Endorsement (STCW I/10)

- 6.2.1. All parties should note that currently the BMA is only required to issue a documentary proof of application for a Flag State Endorsement of a Certificate of Competency.
- 6.2.2. Effective 01 January 2012, a flag state Endorsement will be required for a Certificate of Proficiency issued to officers in accordance with 2010 amendments Regulation V/1-1(Oil and Chemical tankers advanced training) and V/1-2 (liquefied gas tanker advanced training). Effective 01 January 2012, the BMA will issue a documentary proof of application for this application in accordance with this requirement.

7. Enquiries

- 7.1. Any queries relating to the 2010 amendments can be directed to the BMA's Seafarers & Manning Department at : stcw@bahamasmaritime.com