



Ref. T2/4.1.3

MSC/Circ.918  
4 June 1999

**GUIDANCE FOR PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS IN RESPECT OF  
CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY ISSUED UNDER THE  
PROVISIONS OF THE STCW CONVENTION**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-first session (19 to 28 May 1999), noted that certain clarifications were necessary for the guidance of port State control officers concerning the transitional provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978.

2 Member Governments are invited to inform their port State control officers that:

- .1 until 1 February 2002, valid certificates of competency and endorsements issued or recognized by a Party in accordance with the relevant provisions of the STCW Convention which were in force immediately prior to 1 February 1997 remain valid, subject to STCW regulation I/15;
- .2 until 1 February 2002, seafarers holding valid certificates issued in accordance with the relevant provisions of the STCW Convention which were in force immediately prior to 1 February 1997 by the Party which found them qualified are not required by the STCW Convention to hold, in addition, certificates or endorsements issued by the Government of the flag which the ship on which they are serving is entitled to fly;
- .3 on or after 1 February 2002, all certificates of competency and endorsements issued to seafarers are required to comply with the provisions of the STCW Convention, as amended; and
- .4 seafarers are not required to hold certificates as evidence of basic training in order to comply with regulation VI/1 because the evidence required by section A-VI/1 is not considered to be a certificate.

3 Member Governments are reminded of the guidance issued under STCW.7/Circ.1 and invited to bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all concerned, especially port State control officers.