



Ref. T2/4.1.3

MSC/Circ.948
26 May 2000

Preparation of reports pursuant to STCW regulation I/7, paragraph 2

1 The Committee, at its seventy-second session (17 to 26 May 2000), noted a progress report on the evaluation of information which had been communicated by STCW Parties before 1 August 1998 and expressed its regret that, due to the slow pace of progress so far achieved, the Secretary-General had not been able to make his report on Parties which had been found to give full and complete effect to the provisions of the revised STCW Convention, as originally planned.

2 In recognizing the significance of the Secretary-General's report in the effective implementation of the Convention by STCW Parties and the impact it will have on the shipping industry, the Committee considered it essential that every effort should be made to enable MSC 73 to take the action contemplated by STCW regulation I/7, paragraph 3. As the Committee had previously decided (MSC 69/22, paragraph 7.10) that the Secretary-General's report should only be submitted after all the information communicated by Parties received by 1 August 1998 had been evaluated, it now recognized that all evaluations should be completed in time for the Secretary-General to make his report pursuant to STCW regulation I/7, paragraph 2, to MSC 73. In this regard the Committee requested the STCW Parties concerned and competent persons, under the supervision of the Secretary-General, to act in accordance with the timetable given at annex.

3 The Committee strongly urged Member Governments, Parties to the STCW Convention, to respond to requests for clarifications without undue delay and to ensure that the competent persons they have nominated are given every opportunity and are prompted to complete their evaluations in a timely manner to enable the Secretary-General to make his report to MSC 73 in November/December 2000.

4 The Committee agreed that no STCW Party should be unfairly penalized due to a panel of competent persons being unable to take action in a timely manner, even though the Party had submitted information in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and had provided timely clarifications in response to requests from the panel of competent persons.

5 In the event that one or more panels are unable to complete their work by 1 October 2000, and in order to avoid unfair treatment of any Party and also to provide every opportunity for the Secretary-General to make his report to MSC 73, the Committee decided that the following actions should be taken:

- .1 the Secretary-General to notify, by 1 October 2000, those Parties whose panels have been unable to complete their evaluations in order to permit those Parties to consider possible courses of action;
- .2 the Secretary-General to submit a status report to MSC 73 by 16 October 2000 on the progress made by the panels of competent persons in evaluating the information communicated by Parties in advance of the 1 August 1998 deadline, indicating the reasons why the panel(s) were not able to complete their work; and

- .3 the Secretary-General to be prepared at MSC 73 to distribute the report called for by STCW regulation I/7, paragraph 2, based on the reports of all those evaluations received at IMO by 24 November 2000, in the event that the Committee determines that all reasonable efforts have been made to complete the work.

ANNEX

Timetable of actions

By 26 May 2000	The Secretary-General to request Governments to ensure that the competent persons they have nominated are given every opportunity to complete their work in order to allow him to make his report to MSC 73.
By 1 June 2000	Panel chairmen to be made aware that requests for clarifications should be made by 15 June 2000.
By 15 June 2000	Parties to be made aware of requests for clarifications.
By 1 August 2000	Parties to provide outstanding clarifications and information requested by panels of competent persons.
By 1 October 2000	The Secretary-General to notify the Parties whose competent person panels have sufficient information to enable them to complete their evaluations.
By 1 October 2000	Panel chairmen to make their reports to the Secretary-General.
By 16 October 2000	The Secretary-General to submit a status report on progress to MSC 73.
