



Ref. T2/4.2

MSC/Circ.950
30 May 2000

GUIDANCE ON ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN PARTIES TO ALLOW FOR RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES UNDER STCW REGULATION I/10

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-second session (17 to 26 May 2000), agreed that, in establishing arrangements for the recognition of certificates under regulation I/10, a written undertaking should be concluded between the Party which is to recognize the certificates (i.e., the Administration), and the Party which is issuing the certificates to be recognized (i.e., the certificate-issuing Party). In this respect, the Committee agreed that the following issues should be considered by Parties:

- .1 identification of the Administration and the certificate-issuing Party;
- .2 position, address and access information for the official in the Administration and for the official in the certificate-issuing Party who are designated to be directly responsible for implementing the undertaking;
- .3 application of the undertaking;
- .4 procedures to be followed by the Administration, subject to the consent of the certificate-issuing Party, when requesting an opportunity to visit the facilities, observe the procedures, or review the policies which have been approved or employed by the certificate-issuing Party for meeting the requirements of the STCW Convention concerning:
 - .1 standards of competence;
 - .2 the issue, endorsement, revalidation and revocation of certificates;
 - .3 record-keeping;
 - .4 standards of medical fitness; and
 - .5 communication and response process to requests for verifications;
- .5 access by the Administration to the results of quality standards evaluations conducted by the certificate-issuing Party in accordance with regulation I/8;

- .6 procedures to be followed by the Administration when verifying the validity or contents of a certificate issued by the certificate-issuing Party, and to resolve questions which may arise;
 - .7 procedures to be followed by the Administration in notifying the certificate-issuing Party when it has withdrawn or revoked its endorsement of recognition for disciplinary or other reasons;
 - .8 procedures to be followed by the certificate-issuing Party in promptly notifying the Administration of any significant changes in the arrangements for training and certification provided in compliance with the Convention, and the criteria to be used in determining what changes are to be considered “significant” for this purpose. At a minimum, significant changes should be understood to include:
 - .1 changes in the position, address or access information for the official responsible for implementing the undertaking;
 - .2 changes affecting the procedures set forth in the undertaking; and
 - .3 changes which amount to substantial differences from the information communicated to the Secretary-General pursuant to section A-I/7 of the STCW Code;
 - .9 termination clauses; and
 - .10 validity.
- 2 The undertaking should be signed by, or acknowledged and confirmed in writing by, an authorized official from the Administration and from the certificate-issuing Party.
- 3 This guidance is focussed on bilateral arrangements but may also be reflected in a multilateral undertaking.
- 4 Member Governments and STCW Parties are invited to be guided accordingly and to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.
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