



Ref. T2/4.1.3

MSC/Circ.979
8 December 2000

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION
AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978, AS AMENDED**

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

1 The Committee, at its seventy-third session (27 November to 6 December 2000), noted a progress report on the evaluation of information that had been communicated by STCW Parties before or after 1 August 1998.

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 74 to take the action contemplated by STCW regulation I/7, paragraph 3 for those Parties whose evaluation is not yet complete.

3 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.

4 As its seventy-fifth session is tentatively scheduled to take place after the end of the transitional period under STCW regulation I/15 (1 February 2002), the Committee strongly urged Member Governments 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 74 in May/June 2001.

5 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.

ANNEX**Timetable of actions**

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| By 18 December 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 74. Panel chairmen to be made aware that requests for clarifications should be made by 5 February 2001. |
| By 5 February 2001 | Parties to be made aware of requests for clarifications. |
| By 23 March 2001 | Parties to provide outstanding clarifications and information requested by panels of competent persons. |
| By 27 April 2001 | The Secretary-General to notify those Parties whose panels have failed to complete their evaluations and make their reports in order for the Parties concerned to consider possible courses of action. |
| By 18 May 2001 | Panel chairmen to make their reports to the Secretary-General. |
| On 30 May 2001 | The Secretary-General to submit a report to MSC 74. |
| 30 May to 8 June | MSC 74 |
