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FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 2016-October-04

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Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and masters of Vanuatu-registered ships.

RE: Manilla Amendments of 2010 and STCW Certificates

As per STCW/7/Circ16 The Manilla Amendments transitional period allow for mariners to renew their documents prior to 1 January 2017 under the current standards.

Issuance and revalidation of certificates and endorsements issued in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 1 January 2012

1. Regulation I/15 provides that a Party may, until 1 January 2017, continue to renew and revalidate certificates and endorsements in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 1 January 2012. Conversely, regulation I/11, paragraph 4, requires Member States to compare the standards of competence which it required of candidates for certificates issued before 1 January 2017 with those specified for the appropriate certificate in part A of the Code and determine the need for the holders to undergo appropriate refresher and updating training or assessment. This may raise the question of whether a certificate revalidated in accordance with regulation I/15 should be valid beyond 1 January 2017.

2. Resolution 4 of the STCW Conference recognizes the need for full compliance to be achieved by the 1 January 2017. Therefore, in order to promote uniform implementation of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code, regulation I/15 should be applied as follows:

.1 for seafarers holding certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 1 January 2012 and who have not met the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments, the validity of any revalidated certificate should not extend beyond 1 January 2017;

.2 for seafarers holding certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of the Convention which applied immediately prior to 1 January 2012 who have met the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments, the validity of any revalidated certificate can extend beyond 1 January 2017;

.3 for seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training program or an approved training course before 1 July 2013 the validity of any certificate issued should not extend beyond 1 January 2017, unless they meet the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments; and

.4 for seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training program or an approved training course after 1 July 2013 the validity of any certificate issued may extend beyond 1 January 2017.

3. Noting that table B-I/2 contains a list of certificates or documentary evidence required under the relevant provisions of the Convention, Administrations should take into account that the certificates or documentary evidence under the 2010 Manila Amendments have changed in respect of contents and title. Administrations may issue certificates or documentary evidence under the provisions of the 1995 STCW Amendments with a validity that should not extend beyond 1 January 2017 or new certificates under the provisions of the 2010 Manila Amendments, as appropriate.



Patrick Michael DeCharles II
by the direction of
The Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs
The Republic of Vanuatu

