



Marine Notice 20/2016

AMSA's approach to STCW Convention amendments due to take effect 1 January 2017

Purpose

The purpose of this Marine Notice is to bring to the attention of ship owners, ship operators, tug operators, ship masters, seafarers, colleges, classification societies, recruiting agents and unions that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has recommended that Authorities take a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to seafarer documentation giving effect to the 2010 Manila amendments to *International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers* (STCW) until 30 June 2017.

Background

At its 97th session, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) noted with concern that some seafarers have not yet been issued certificates compliant with the STCW Convention as amended in 2010.

Port State Control inspections

In accordance with IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1560 paragraph 5, AMSA has instructed its port State inspectors to take a practical and pragmatic approach to the exercise of control with respect to STCW seafarer documentation where that documentation complies with the requirements in place immediately before 1 January 2017.

Flag State inspections

In preparing for the introduction of the Manila amendments AMSA prescribed in Marine Orders that where a certificate was not revalidated in line with the Manila amendments it would expire on the 31 December 2016. In light of the outcome of MSC, AMSA has now issued an exemption under the *Navigation Act 2012* permitting seafarers to be employed on Australian vessels with a certificate of competency, proficiency or safety training which would have complied with the requirements in place on or before 31 December 2016 and which would otherwise have expired.

These certificates will remain valid for service as follows:

- Certificates of Competency issued on or after 1 July 2012 shall remain valid for service until 30 June 2017.
- Certificates of Proficiency that were valid for service at sea on or before 31 December 2016 shall remain valid for service until 30 June 2017.
- Certificates of Safety Training that were valid for service at sea on or before 31 December 2016 shall remain valid for service until 30 June 2017.

AMSA encourages all seafarers holding affected STCW certificates to arrange for revalidation of their current certificates at the earliest possible time. Guidance on requirements is available here: <http://www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/international/fact-sheets/Seafarers/index.asp>

A copy of MSC.1/Circ.1560 is available on the AMSA website at: <http://www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/publications/MSC1Circ1560.pdf>.

Brad Groves
Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Australian Maritime Safety Authority
December 2016

GPO Box 2181
CANBERRA ACT 2601

File No: 2016/3050

Attachment: *Navigation Act Qualifications (Expiry of certificates) Exemption 2016*



Australian Government
Australian Maritime Safety Authority

AMSA Operations Ex 2016/1

Navigation Act Qualifications (Expiry of certificates) Exemption 2016

I, Allan Schwartz, General Manager Operations, and a delegate of the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, under subsection 334(1) of the *Navigation Act 2012*

exempt a person who holds a seafarer certificate mentioned in an item of Schedule 1 from the requirement to hold a seafarer certificate that would be required to perform the duties or functions mentioned in the item if the certificate:

- (a) has expired or will expire in accordance with section 12 of any of the following Marine Orders:
 - (i) *Marine Order 71 (Masters and deck officers) 2014*;
 - (ii) *Marine Order 72 (Engineer officers) 2014*;
 - (iii) *Marine Order 73 (Ratings) 2014*; and
- (b) either:
 - (i) was issued on or after 1 July 2012; or
 - (ii) if a certificate of proficiency as rating — was in force on 31 December 2016

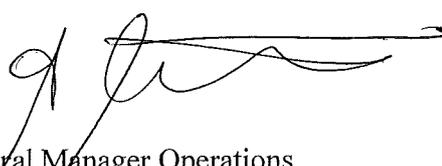
and exempt a person who holds a certificate of safety training that was in force on 31 December 2016 from the requirement to revalidate the certificate in accordance with Schedule 4 of *Marine Order 73 (Ratings) 2014*.

For this exemption, *the requirement to hold a seafarer certificate* means the following:

- (a) for a certificate of competency as master or deck officer — subsection 7(1) of *Marine Order 71 (Masters and deck officers) 2014*;
- (b) for a certificate of competency as engineer officer — section 7 of *Marine Order 72 (Engineer officers) 2014*;
- (c) for a certificate of proficiency as rating — section 7 of *Marine Order 73 (Ratings) 2014*.

This instrument ceases to have effect at the end of 30 June 2017.

15 December 2016



General Manager Operations

Schedule 1 Certificates and duties

Seafarer certificate	Duties
Certificate of competency as master or deck officer	The permitted duties or functions for the grade of certificate mentioned in Schedule 1 of <i>Marine Order 71 (Masters and deck officers) 2014</i>
Certificate of competency as engineer officer	The permitted duties or functions for the grade of certificate mentioned in Schedule 1 of <i>Marine Order 72 (Engineer officers) 2014</i>
Certificate of proficiency as rating	The permitted duties or functions for the grade of certificate mentioned in Schedule 1 of <i>Marine Order 73 (Ratings) 2014</i>
