



TECHNICAL ALERT No. 16-61

Bahamas STCW Able Seafarer Certificate of Proficiency

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Technical Alert draws all parties' attention to the requirements to apply for a Bahamas Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) as an Able Seafarer, in accordance with The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW).
- 1.2. All parties should be guided by the information outlined in BMA Information Bulletin nos. 81, 130, 137 and 153.
- 1.3. The Bahamas accepts Able Seafarer CoP issued by any STCW party and there is no requirement for a Bahamas Flag State Endorsement of an Able Seafarer CoP.

2. General

- 2.1. The BMA has received a number of queries in relation to Able Seafarer certification including concerns expressed on delays in receiving such certification from some Administrations for existing seafarers, who are sailing or intending to sail as Able Seafarers onboard Bahamian ships.
- 2.2. The BMA is also aware that there are some seafarers who hold Able Seafarer certification issued in accordance with the standards of International Labour Organisation Convention no. 74 (ILO 74).
- 2.3. The BMA is mindful that on some ships, the Minimum Safe Manning Document may require the carriage of Able Seafarer certified in accordance with the requirements (i.e. STCW II/5 for Deck or STCW III/5 for Engine-room) and delays in certification may affect the employment of seafarers and the operation of Bahamian ships.

- 2.4. Accordingly, the BMA can confirm that Companies employing seafarers who are serving or intending to serve onboard Bahamian ships can apply for a Bahamas STCW Able Seafarer CoP.
- 2.5. Any application for a Bahamas Able Seafarer must be submitted by the Company using the Bahamas Online Registration Information System – BORIS (See BMA Information Bulletin no. 137).
- 2.6. The fees for a CoP are as per BMA Information Bulletin no. 81 and Companies shall ensure that all the required information and relevant supporting documentation (as noted in the Annex) are included in order to avoid delays.

3. Able Seafarer (Deck) CoP

3.1 Able Seafarer Deck CoP requirements where seafarer has a Navigational Watch Rating (STCW II/4) certificate

Any application must include the following documentary evidence:

- 1) Valid medical certificate, **and**
- 2) Documentary evidence of having obtained a Rating forming part of a Navigational Watch Certificate of Proficiency under STCW II/4; **and**
- 3) Documentary evidence of Training complying with the requirements of STCW A-II/5, **or**
 - i. a completed training record book that has been duly signed, **or**
 - ii. a letter from Company/Master that seafarer complies with STW A-II/5 competence requirements, **and**
- 4) Documentary evidence of having performed at least one of the following period of sea service within the within last five years:
 - i. 12 months sea-service since obtaining a STCW II/4 certificate, **or**
 - ii. 18 months required if using completed training record book, **or**
 - iii. 24 months if a letter from the Company or Master is provided; **and**
- 5) Documentary evidence of successful completion of training in Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boat (STCW VI/2) within last 5 years.

3.2 **Able Seafarer Deck requirements where the seafarer is serving as an Able Seafarer with an ILO 74 Able Seafarer certificate**

Any application must include the following documentary evidence:

- 1) Valid medical certificate, **and**
- 2) ILO no. 74 Able Seafarer certificates, **and**
- 3) Documentary evidence of having performed at least 12 months sea-service within last five year; **and**
- 4) Documentary evidence of successful completion of training in Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boat (STCW VI/2) within last 5 years.

4. **Able Seafarer (Engine-room)**

Any applications must include the following documentary evidence:

- 1) Valid medical certificate, **and**
- 2) Documentary evidence of having obtained a Rating forming part of a Engineering Watch Certificate of Proficiency under STCW III/4, **and**
- 3) Documentary evidence of Training complying with the requirements of STCW A-III/5 **or**
 - i. a completed training record book that has been duly signed, **or**
 - ii. a letter from Company/Chief Engineer that seafarer complies with STW A-III/5 competence requirements; **and**
- 4) Documentary evidence of having performed at least one of the following period of sea service within the within last five years:
 - i. 12 months sea-service since obtaining a STCW III/4 certificate, **or**
 - ii. 18 months if a completed training record book is provided; **or**
 - iii. 24 months, if a letter from the Company or Chief Engineer is provided.

5. **Validity**

- 5.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

6. **Revision History**

Rev.0 (29 November 2016) – First issue

Annex I: Checklist for Bahamas STCW Able Seafarer (Engine-room) Certificate of Proficiency

Required Documentary evidence	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Medical certificate	✓	✓	✓
Sea Service (<i>within the last five years and since qualifying as an Engineering Rating</i>)	12 months	18 months	24 months
Certificate as Engine-room Watch Rating -STCW III/4 (<i>issued by or on behalf of a SCW party</i>)	✓	✓	✓
Documentary evidence of STCW III/5 training (<i>issued by or on behalf of a STCW Party</i>)	✓		
Letter¹ from Chief Engineer that seafarer is competent² as required by STW A-III/5			✓
Training Record Book		✓	

¹ Letter should be on Company paper and include the ship's stamp, full name and Bahamas Endorsement no of the Chief Engineer. If the letter is provided by the Company, it should be signed by the ISM DPA.

² The area of competence are: a) Safe engineering watch, b) Monitoring and controlling an engine-room watch, c) Fuel and oil transfer operations, d) Bilge and ballast operations, e) Safe operation of equipment and machinery, f) Safe use of electrical equipment, g) shipboard maintenance and repair, h) Handling of stores, i) Application of occupational health and safety precautions, j) Application of precautions and contribution to the prevention of pollution of the marine environment.

Annex 2: Checklist for Bahamas STCW Able Seafarer (Deck) Certificate of Proficiency

Required Documentary evidence	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Valid Medical certificate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Valid Proficiency in Survival Craft training (STCW VI/2)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sea Service (<i>within the last five years and since qualifying as a Navigational Watch Rating</i>)	12 months	18 months	24 months	12 months
Certificate as Navigational Watch Rating STCW II/4 (<i>issued by or on behalf of a SCW party</i>)	✓	✓	✓	
Valid ILO no. 74 AB certificate (<i>issued by or behalf of a STCW party</i>)				✓
Documentary evidence of STCW II/5 training (<i>issued by or on behalf of a STCW Party</i>)	✓			
Letter³ from Company/Master that seafarer is competent⁴ as required by STW A-II/5			✓	
Training Record Book		✓		

³ Letter should be on Company paper and include the ship's stamp, full name and Bahamas Endorsement no of the Master. If the letter is by the Company, it should be signed by the ISM DPA

⁴ The area of competence are: a) Safe navigational watch, b) Berthing, anchoring and other mooring operations, c) Handling of cargo and stores, d) Echo sounder and Compass, e) Safe operation of deck equipment and machinery, f) Application of occupational health and safety precautions, g) Application of precautions and contribution to the prevention of pollution of the marine environment, h) Contribution to shipboard maintenance and repair