



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Maritime Administration

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Ref. No 418
Date 11.03.2015
Sofia

DEAR SIRs,

With the following letter I would like to inform you of the arrangements which were made by the Bulgarian competent authorities in order to meet the requirements of the revised STCW Convention and Code with the adoption and entry into force of the 2010 Manila amendments. These arrangements include both legislative and practical measures.

Ordinance No.6 of 5 April 2012 of the Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications on Seafarers' Competence in the Republic of Bulgaria is the act of the Bulgarian national legislation, which embodies the provisions of the STCW Convention and the Code. In order to fully align it with the 2010 Manila amendments, the Ordinance was last amended and promulgated in the State Gazette on 10 October 2014. The text of Ordinance No.6 may be found on www.marad.bg.

In order to align the certificates issued in conformity with the provisions of the STCW Convention with the latest enforced amendments to the latter, the Bulgarian Maritime Administration introduced a new form of the certificates of proficiency and the documentary evidences, which are required under Regulations II/4, II/5, III/4, III/5, III/7, V and VI. The Administration started to issue the new certificates of proficiency and documentary evidences as of 20 October 2014. Nonetheless, until 1 January 2017 there may still be some Bulgarian seafarers holding certificates of competency issued under the Regulations II/4, II/5, III/4, III/5, III/7 in the old applicable form.

As of 26 January 2015 the certificates of competency issued to the Bulgarian seafarers will no more have a sticker (tanker endorsement) on page 5, attesting that the issued certificates conform with the provisions of Regulation V/1-1 and V/1-2. Please note that, until 1 January 2017 it is still possible to have some Bulgarian seafarers in possession of certificates of competency with affixed endorsements rather than holding separate certificate of proficiency as per Regulation V/1-1 and V/1-2.

To give effect of the requirement of Regulation I/3, para. 6, item 3 of the Convention to define limits of the near coastal area for which the certificate of competence is valid, the limits will be indicated by a sticker on page 6 of the certificate.

As of 1 January 2017, the seafarers at management and operational level will not be obliged to hold certificates of proficiency for "Basic safety training", "Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats, other than fast rescue boats" and "Training in advanced fire-fighting". This

training is included in the educational programs. The completion of these training or refresh courses is a mandatory prerequisite for issue or revalidation of a certificate of competence.

The verification of certificates of competency, certificates of proficiency and documentary evidences could be made on the website of Bulgarian Maritime Administration (www.marad.bg), section "Online verification of authenticity and validity of certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency and documentary evidences, issued by the Bulgarian Maritime Administration". The Personal Identification Number of the seafarer who is holder of the certificate is needed to carry out the verification. The Personal Identification Number is the one indicated in the certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency, documentary evidence, Seaman's Passport or Seaman's Book.

Sincerely yours,



ZHIVKO PETROV,
Executive Director
Bulgarian Maritime Administration