



MMSC DIVISION CIRCULAR

No. **02/2016**

DATED: 08.09.2016

SUBJECT:

**BELIZE FLAG | IMMARBE CIRCULARS
INTRODUCING MAJOR CHANGES**

BELIZE FLAG | IMMARBE CIRCULARS INTRODUCING MAJOR CHANGES

Dear Sirs,

We would like to inform you regarding the latest **IMMARBE Circulars** which introduce **important changes** and will affect the vessel's certification:

SDC-16/02

ENDORSEMENT OF CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY FOR RATINGS

There is **no** requirement (any more) for IMMARBE **endorsement** attesting to the recognition of a Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for **Ratings** (Deck and Engine)

SDC-16/03

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANILA AMENDMENTS TO STCW CONVENTION AND CODE FOR ABLE SEAFARER DECK (STCW REG. II/5) AND ABLE SEAFARER ENGINE (STCW REG. III/5)

- IMMARBE would like to inform Owners/ISM Operators that current **Minimum Safe Manning** Certificates onboard Belize Flag Vessels will **only be valid until 31 December 2016**
- As a temporary measure, a minimum number of one (1) AS(D) and one (1) AS(E) are required, and the differences may be substituted by corresponding ratings holding CoPs of Ratings forming part of a navigational watch (RW(D)) or Ratings forming part of an engineering watch (RW(E)) with relevant capacities as required in the abovementioned paragraph
- Owners/ISM Operators must apply through their responsible Deputy Registrar office for the revised MSM Certificate prior to **1 January, 2017**.

SDC-16/01**REVISED CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIP SECURITY OFFICERS (SSO) ON BOARD BELIZE REGISTERED VESSELS**

- Ship Security Officer (SSO) and such shall be a **management level officer** who shall hold a valid SSO Certificate of Proficiency (CoP-STCW Reg. V1/5)
- There is **no requirement** for IMMARBE **endorsement** attesting the recognition of a Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for Ship Security Officer (SSO)
- ISM Operators or Company Security Officer (CSO) are required to **submit** via email a copy of Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) as SSO to IMMARBE, order to receive a **confirmation** of acceptance by one the IMMARBE's Seafarer Officer

For all above changes our MMSC Division "**Circular 01/2016 Flags Circ related to ISM ISPS MLC**" has been updated accordingly, while for details you can find the whole circulars at IMMARBE site (<http://www.immarbe.com>).

P. Klavdianos
Marine Management
Systems Certification Division

**INSB Class**
International Naval Surveys Bureau

Attachments

IMMARBE Circulars:

SDC-16/02**ENDORSEMENT OF CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY FOR RATINGS****SDC-16/03****IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANILA AMENDMENTS TO STCW CONVENTION AND CODE FOR ABLE SEAFARER DECK (STCW REG. II/5) AND ABLE SEAFARER ENGINE (STCW REG. III/5)****SDC-16/01****REVISED CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIP SECURITY OFFICERS (SSO) ON BOARD BELIZE REGISTERED VESSELS**



Seafarers Department Circular **SDC-16/01**

IMMARBE

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

REVISED CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIP SECURITY OFFICERS (SSO) ON BOARD BELIZE-REGISTERED VESSELS

TO: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, ISM OPERATORS/OWNERS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS.

ISSUANCE DATE: 17th August 2016

Revision No.: 3

MSN Superseded: **SDC-12/01 and SDC-15/09**

Dated: 19th March 2012 and 29 June 2015

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Circular is to inform all concerned parties of our revised certification requirements for Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for Ship Security Officer (SSO) on board Belize flagged vessels.

As previously informed by our Seafarer Department Circulars **SDC-12/01**, **SDF/F/12/01** and **SDC-15/09** making references to International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) requirements for Ship Security Officers on board Belize flagged vessels. IMMARBE, after careful consideration, has now decided to revise these requirements as follows:

- 1.1 All Belize flagged vessels engaged on international voyages in which the ISPS Code applies, must have on board one (1) Ship Security Officer (SSO) and such shall be a management level officer. It is highly recommended that this duty be executed by the Master, Chief Officer, Chief Engineer or Second Engineer, who shall hold a valid SSO Certificate of Proficiency (CoP-STCW Reg. V1/5) issued by, or on behalf of, any credible Administration (Member Party of STCW Convention) in accordance with STCW Convention and code.
- 1.2 If the person designated is not the Master, it must be understood that the Master still holds overall responsibility for the security of the ship which cannot be relinquished.

1.3 All Ship Security Officers (SSO) on board Belize Vessels are hereby requested to maintain regular communication with the Company Security Officer (CSO) in order to comply with the measures established in the Ship Security Plan.

2. FLAG STATE ENDORSEMENT

There is no requirement for IMMARBE endorsement attesting the recognition of a Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for Ship Security Officer (SSO) providing that the SSO holds a valid CoP (STCW Reg. V1/5) issued by, or on behalf of, another Administration (Member Party of STCW Convention) in accordance with STCW Convention and code.

ISM Operators or Company Security Officer (CSO) are required to submit via email a copy of Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) as SSO issued by, or on behalf of, another Administration (Member Party of STCW Convention) prior the SSO boarding a Belize Flag vessel (s).

The emails where copy of Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for SSO need to be sent are as follows:

Name: **Ms. Crystal Allen (Senior Seafarer Officer)**

Email: certification@immarbe.com

Name: **Mr. Elias Gonzalez (Seafarer Officer)**

E-mail: seafarersofficer@immarbe.com

3. IMPLEMENTATION

The above shall take effect from 01 September 2016. Except in cases where Certificate of Proficiency CoP are currently being processed, the above shall take effect subsequent to the issuance of that Certificate of Proficiency CoP.



Capt. Luis Muriel

Seafarer Manager

Email: seafarersmanager@immarbe.com



Capt. Demetrio Cortes

Technical Director of IMMARBE

Email: demetrio@immarbe.com



Seafarers Department Circular **SDC-16/02**

IMMARBE

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

ENDORSEMENT OF CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY FOR RATINGS

TO: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, ISM OPERATORS/OWNERS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS.

ISSUANCE DATE: 17TH August 2016

Revision No.: 1

MSN Superseded: **SDC-09/01**

Dated: 14TH May 2009

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Seafarer Department Circular is to provide Ship Owners, ISM Operators, Deputy Registrars, General Safety Inspectors, Recognized Organizations and Other Parties with our requirements for Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for Ratings serving onboard Belize Flagged Vessels.

As previously informed by our Seafarers Department Circular **SDC-09/01**, which made references to International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) requirements for endorsements to be issued to Ratings (Deck and Engine) on Belize Flagged vessels.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Circular, ratings are defined as a member of the ship's crew other than the Master, an officer or an engineer, including but not limited to: Able Seafarer Deck (AS(D)), Able Seafarer Engine (AS(E)), Ratings forming part of a navigational watch (RW(D)), Ratings forming part of an engineering watch (RW(E)), Other Deck Ratings (OR(D)), Other Engine Ratings (OR(E)), Electro-Technical Rating, Boatswain, Chief Cook, Cook, Steward, Mess Man, Oilers, Motorman, Wipers, Fitters, Welders, General Purpose Seaman, Ordinary Seaman, Deck & Engine Cadets, Chief Electricians, Electric-Carpenters, Fireman, Pumpman, and Reeferman.

3. FLAG ENDORSEMENT

There is no requirement for IMMARBE endorsement attesting to the recognition of a Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for Ratings (Deck and Engine) provided Ratings shall hold a valid Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) issued by, or on behalf of, another Administration (Member Party of STCW Convention) in accordance with STCW Convention and code.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The above shall take effect from 01 September 2016. Except in cases where Certificate of Proficiency CoP are currently being processed, the above shall take effect subsequent to the issuance of the endorsement of that Certificate of Proficiency CoP.



Capt. Muriel
Seafarer Manager



Capt. Demetrio Cortes
Technical Director of IMMARBE



Seafarers Department Circular **SDC-16/03**

IMMARBE

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANILA AMENDMENTS TO STCW CONVENTION AND CODE FOR ABLE SEAFARER DECK (STCW Reg. II/5) AND ABLE SEAFARER ENGINE (STCW Reg. III/5)

**TO: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, ISM OPERATORS/OWNERS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND
GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS.**

ISSUANCE DATE: 17th August 2016

Revision No.:

Reference 1: Manila Amendments to STCW Convention and code

Reference 2: IMO Assembly Resolution A. 1047 (27)

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Seafarer Department Circular is to provide Ship Owners, ISM Operators, Deputy Registrars, General Safety Inspectors, Recognized Organizations and Other Parties information on how International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) will implement the Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention regarding new grades of Able Seafarer Deck (AS(D)) and Able Seafarer Engine (AS(E)).

Every Seafarer who performs any functions specified in table A-II/5 (contribute to anchoring and mooring, cargo handling and etc.) or A-III/5 (contribute to fueling and oil transfer, ballast, operation of equipment and machinery, shipboard maintenance and etc.) shall hold a Certificate of Proficiency (CoP), as applicable.

2. REQUIREMENTS

The Amended STCW Convention will be fully implemented on 1 January 2017, Owners/ISM Operators shall ensure the manning scales in their Minimum Safe Manning (MSM) Certificates are in compliance with the STCW Convention and the IMO Assembly Resolution A.1047(27).

The existing MSM Certificates issued by IMMARBE do not include the scale on AS (D) and AS(E), and as such do not meet the requirements of the amended STCW Convention. Therefore,

IMMARBE would like to inform Owners/ISM Operators that current MSM Certificates onboard Belize Flag Vessels will only be valid until 31 December 2016. The Owners/ISM operators are consequently requested to submit new application for the MSM Certificate.

Attached (is a) copy of the application form for new MSM Certificate.

(Because) the Seafarer’s Department of IMMARBE has been informed that a number of qualified AS (D)s and AS(E) may not be issued with their corresponding CoPs prior the above deadline). This circular provides additional information for Owners/ISM operators in renewing the MSM Certificates.

According to Regulation II/5.6 and III/5.4 of the STCW Convention, qualified watch-keeping ratings, i.e. holding CoPs in respect of Regulation II/4 or III/4, may be considered to have met the respective requirements of Regulation II/5 and III/5 respectively if they have served in relevant capacities in their corresponding department for a period of not less than 12 months within the last 60 months preceding the entry into force of the Regulation II/5 and III/5. However, some of Administrations may not adopt the regulations to issue CoPs for them. Ship Operators may have difficulties in employing sufficient AS (D) and AS(E) to work on board. In this regard, the Seafarer’s Department will, on a temporary basis, accept a limited number of competent ratings who have not yet received their CoPs.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 As a temporary measure, a minimum number of one (1) AS(D) and one (1) AS(E) are required, and the differences may be substituted by corresponding ratings holding CoPs of Ratings forming part of a navigational watch (RW(D)) or Ratings forming part of an engineering watch (RW(E)) with relevant capacities as required in the abovementioned paragraph.

Required number of Ratings are listed below in Table 1 for Belize Flagged vessels:

RATINGS/ Table 1		
Grade	STCW Reg.	No.
Able Seafarer Deck (AS(D))	II/5	1
Ratings forming part of a navigational watch (RW(D))	II/4*	1 or 2
Other Deck Ratings (OR(D))	VI/1	0
Able Seafarer Engine (AS(E))	III/5	1
Ratings forming part of an engineering watch (RW(E))	III/4**	1 or 2
Other Engine Room Ratings (OR(E))	VI/1	0

Remarks * - Ratings acquire 12-months experience in relevant capacities while holding certificate of proficiency of RW(D) (II/4)

** - Ratings acquire 12-months experience in relevant capacities while holding certificate of proficiency of RW(E) (III/4)

3.2 Owners/ISM Operators must apply through their responsible Deputy Registrar office for the revised MSM Certificate prior to 1 January, 2017. Copy of the application form for reissuance of new MSM Certificate along with the crew list must be submitted by Deputy Registrar office to:

IMMARBE Technical Department Eng. Eduardo Simon (technicalofficer@immarbe.com), Eng. Jessica Villareal (technicalofficer2@immarbe.com) and Capt. Demetrio Cortes (demetrio@immarbe.com)

3.3 In the event that IMMARBETechnical Department is not satisfied with the proposed crew complement forwarded by Deputy Registrar on behalf of ship owners/ship manager, a counter-proposal will be made by IMMARBETechnical Department.

3.4 Whenever a revised MSM Certificate is issued, the current MSM Certificate will no longer be valid.

The above-detailed measure shall take effect from 01 September 2016.



Capt. Muriel
Seafarer Manager
Email: seafarersmanager@immarbe.com



Capt. Demetrio Cortes
Technical Director of IMMARBETechnical Department
Email: demetrio@immarbe.com