



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1
SM10/4/5

Date: 12 June 2015

Marine Notice No. 8 of 2015

Compliance with STCW '78, as amended in 2010

TO TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, SHIP OPERATORS, MASTERS, OFFICERS AND CREW,
EXAMINERS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Summary

This marine notice serves to inform all those concerned of the progress that SAMSMA has made regarding South Africa's compliance with the 2010 amendments to the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978. The marine notice details some of the activities that have been undertaken and those still to be undertaken by SAMSMA (and Department for Transport) in order for South Africa to show compliance with the Convention.

Introduction

1. South Africa is party to the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended (STCW Convention). The convention has been amended from time to time, with major amendments in 1995 and 2010. The two amendments have led a change in approach as to how various administration's approach to the education, training, assessment and the issuing of certification.
2. The 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention came into force on 01 January 2012 with a transitional period running up to 31 December 2016. The Convention was further amended in 2014 with those amendments also coming into force on 01 January 2016. The 2014 amendments were relatively minor and may be implemented by amendment to Regulation.
3. In order to comply with the 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention, SAMSMA needed to make numerous changes, including;
 - a. Repeal the regulations that existed prior 2010 relating to the issues of Maritime Education, Training and Certification (METC) and replace with an entirely new set of appropriate regulations. To this effect, the Minister of Transport signed the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013 into force on 23 July 2013;
 - b. Clarify the additional requirements for the issue of Manila compliant certification.
 - c. Undergo an external audit for compliance by an external 'person'. To this effect, the audit commenced last year and remains underway.
 - d. Modify the content of SAMSMA issued certificates of competence.
 - e. Develop processes of changing from the previous system to a system that meets the Manila amendments
 - f. Submit a report to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as regard to South Africa's compliance to the STCW convention
4. In this Marine Notice, SAMSMA's plans to ensure compliance and expected dates in which full compliance with the Manila amendments will be outlined. The intention is that all changes will be completed in the

near future, allowing South African seafarers sufficient time to apply for Manila compliant certification well before the end of the transitional period.

Plans and Activities to be undertaken

5. In the introduction, five major changes or activities were highlighted that were needed to ensure compliance with the amended STCW Convention. These need to be addressed and submit a report to the IMO. The submission will provide SAMSA with the 'go-ahead' to issue certificates that will be recognised and accepted by the international community.
6. In order to keep clients and stakeholders informed, the progress made, activities involved and dates of intended completion will be briefly described.

The Regulations

7. The Regulations were signed by the Minister into an executive order on the 23rd July 2013.

Requirements for Candidates

8. The majority of changes have been completed. A number of candidates already meet the new requirements. Records of these candidates have been maintained and their current Certificates of Competence will automatically be replaced with Manila compliant certification once SAMSA has completed all changes required by the Manila amendments. SAMSA intends publishing a consolidated review of the requirements by August 2015.

External Audit

9. DNV.GL are the appointed external auditors in terms of auditing the amended regulations, programmes, documents and systems. A preliminary report has been provided to SAMSA.

Certificates

10. Extensive work has been completed into developing certification that are presentable and compliant with the amended STCW Convention, as well as robust, safe and secure. To this extent, SAMSA has;
 - a. Identified an organisation that will provide good quality certificates which will include built in security features;
 - b. Almost completed the content of the certificates
 - c. Started the design of the certificate in terms of presentation and features
11. SAMSA has set a timeline of three months from 01 June 2015, i.e. 30 August 2015, for the design and internal approvals of the certificates

Internal Processes and Systems

12. SAMSA IT systems are being set up to meet the new requirements. The initial information has been set-up, though there are numerous adjustments to be made for compatibility reasons.

Submission to the IMO

13. The processes briefly outlined above leads to this single event. With the information currently available at the moment, SAMSA hopes to make a submission to the IMO during the period of 26 October 2015 to 06 November 2015. The intention is to present the report to the IMO and get a response soon thereafter. The issuance of new format certificates would commence immediately thereafter or 16 November 2015, whichever comes earlier.

Conclusion

14. It is SAMSA's intention to keep our clients, stakeholders and seafarers informed. This marine notice may therefore be amended from time to time as more information becomes available.
15. Comments and enquiries should be directed to the Chief Examiner or the Registrar of Seafarers on;

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12 June 2015

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