



# South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM 6/5/2/1

Date: 20 February 2020

## Marine Notice No. 9 of 2020

### Accused pleads guilty to issuing fraudulent Interim Certificates of Competency (Interim Skippers Tickets)

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SURVEYORS, AUTHORISED AGENTS, SAFETY OFFICERS, SMALL VESSEL ACCREDITED TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, SAMSA APPOINTED EXTERNAL EXAMINERS, BOAT OWNERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

#### *Summary*

This marine notice brings to the attention of industry, criminal proceedings implemented in Pretoria after Interim Certificates of Competency (Interim Skippers tickets) were issued fraudulently.

#### 1. BACKGROUND

SAMSA had been informed that between 2008 and 2009 the accused had conducted skipper classes and examinations fraudulently for people wanting to obtain a permanent Certificate of Competency (CoC).

The “successful candidates” were then allegedly issued a temporary CoC, which is valid for 6 months. The temporary CoC were purportedly signed by an appointed SAMSA external examiner who claimed he never signed any of the accused temporary CoC's.

Under the normal course of events, before a candidate sits for examinations with an examiner accredited by a SAMSA recognized agency, he undergoes classes (theory) and practical. The person to render the practical training must be different from the person who gives the classes. When the examination is undertaken, the examination scripts are given to another person for marking. The successful candidates, in those days, would then be issued with a temporary CoC under the letterhead and logo of the authorised agency that the examiner belongs to. This is no longer procedure, Interim CoC booklets must now be purchased from the local SAMSA office and no longer available from individual authorised agencies. The applications for permanent CoC's together with the relevant supporting documentation and a fee are first forwarded to the agency for verification and thereafter the agency must send all documentation to SAMSA to issue the permanent CoC.

#### 2. PROCEEDINGS

The accused pleaded guilty on all the counts of fraud and sentenced to pay R150 000 fine or five years' imprisonment. The fine is to be paid on or before 31 January 2020, failing which the accused will serve a period of five years in jail.

### 3. CONCLUSION

SAMSA wishes to draw attention to this incident and remind members of the industry that criminal liability can result from noncompliance with the rules and regulations as contained in the South African Maritime Legislation. It should be a lesson learnt for those in the industry that these rules exist for a reason.

**20 February 2020**

**SM6/5/2/1**

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