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STCW.2/Circ.81
6 September 2017

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING
FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978, AS AMENDED**

**Equivalent arrangements accepted under the International Convention on the
Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping 1978, as amended**

Revised format of Isle of Man issued STCW Endorsements

**Communication received from the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit information from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the revised format of STCW Endorsements issued by the Isle of Man Government, as per the requirement under article IV(1)(c) of the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping 1978, as amended.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

ANNEX

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**Isle of Man Ship Registry
Technical Advisory Notice**



Revised Format of Isle of Man Issued STCW Endorsements	Ref. 004-17 Issued ##/08/17
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The Ship Registry wishes to advise Owners, Operators, Masters, Seafarers and Port State Control Officers of the revision to the format of its "Endorsement attesting the recognition of a certificate".

Background

Under the provisions of STCW I/2.5 the Ship Registry accepts seafarers holding a Certificate of Competency issued by certain other Administrations for service onboard vessels registered in the Isle of Man. Details of these Administrations can be found on our website www.iomshipregistry.com or on our MSN 051 also available from the website.

Such Certificates of Competency are recognised as being valid for service on an Isle of Man registered vessel through the issue of an "Endorsement attesting the recognition of a certificate". This is in accordance with the requirement of STCW I/10.

The Ship Registry intends to revise the format of its current "Endorsement" and will be introducing this during September of 2017.

Details of the new form of "Endorsement" and transitional arrangements affecting the validity of existing format "Endorsements" are provided below:

"New format of "Endorsement attesting the recognition of a certificate"

The new form of endorsement is printed on a single piece of plain white paper. The document will be printed on a single side and contain a digital photograph and signature of the holder and a digital signature of the issuing official.

The holder is required to sign, in the blue box, upon receipt of the document. The document is not to be taken as valid unless it contains these photographs and signatures.

An example of a completed endorsement is provided in Appendix 1 to this document for information and outlines the general requirements.

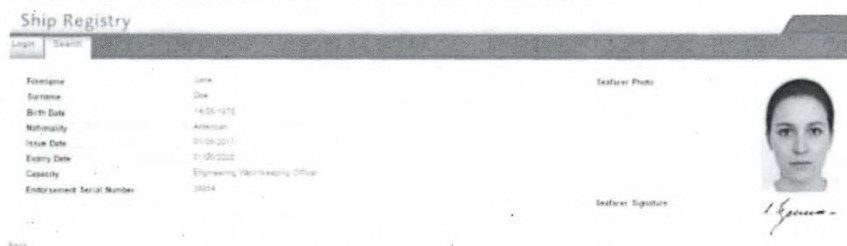
Verification

Each endorsement issued will contain a unique endorsement number and will contain an individual "Quick Response Code" (QR Code) which can be used to immediately verify the validity of the endorsement via any internet connected device with a camera and a QR Code reader (usually available free of charge) installed, such as a smartphone.

The QR Code contains a specific "Uniform Resource Locator" (URL) which links to the Ship Registry's dedicated validation system. Contained within the URL are sufficient parameters specific to the endorsement to allow the system to return a response.



Scanning the QR code will return a web page containing the details of the endorsement as shown below. These will match the details on the endorsement.



The screenshot shows the 'Ship Registry' website interface. It features a search bar at the top. Below it, there is a table of personal details for a seafarer, including Name, Date of Birth, Nationality, Issue Date, Expiry Date, and Endorsement Serial Number. To the right of the table is a section for 'Seafarer Photo' and 'Seafarer Signature'. The photo shows a woman, and the signature is handwritten.

Field	Value
Name	Jane
Date of Birth	14/03/1972
Nationality	American
Issue Date	01/06/2017
Expiry Date	31/05/2022
Category	Engineering (Maintenance Officer)
Endorsement Serial Number	10024

In addition these details can be checked by visiting our online endorsement web checker at: <https://mavis.iomshipregistry.com> which will provide validity information, alternatively you can e-mail seafarers@gov.im or telephone +44(0)1624 688500 and request STCW verification. (Telephone availability restricted to UK officer hours 08:00 – 17:30 Monday to Friday).

Transitional arrangements for existing "Endorsements attesting to the recognition of a certificate"

The new A4 format endorsement will be issued from September 2017 and the existing double sided A5 format printed on brown coloured paper will cease to be issued. All existing A5 format endorsements issued before September 2017 will continue to remain valid *until the date of expiry stated on the individual endorsement*. It will therefore be possible for an existing endorsement to remain valid until September 2022 (subject to the expiry date stated on the endorsement).


The validity of an A5 format endorsement may be checked by visiting our online endorsement web checker at: <https://mavis.iomshipregistry.com> which will provide validity information, alternatively you can e-mail seafarers@gov.im or telephone +44(0)1624 688500 and request STCW verification. (Telephone availability restricted to UK officer hours 08:00 – 17:30 Monday to Friday).

A sample of the existing endorsement is provided at **Appendix 2** to this Advisory Note for information.


Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.



Appendix 1 – Revised A4 format Endorsement.



Endorsement Attesting the Recognition of a Certificate
Under the provisions of the International Convention on
Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping
for Seafarers 1978 as amended





The Government of the Isle of Man certifies that Certificate of Competency
Number: 12345456
Issued To: Jane DOE
By or on behalf of the Government of: New Zealand
Is duly recognised in accordance with the provisions of regulation 1/10 of the above Convention, as amended, and
the lawful holder is authorised to perform the following functions, at the levels specified, subject to any limitations
indicated until: 1 June 2020


Capacity	Limitations applying (if any)
Chief Engineer	
Second Engineer	
Officer in charge of an Engineering Watch	None

Function	Level	Limitations applying (if any)
Controlling the operations of the ship and care for persons on board	Operational	Not valid on chemical tankers Not valid on gas tankers
Marine Engineering	Operational	Valid for motorships only
Maintenance and Repair	Operational	
Electrical, Electronic and Control Engineering	Operational	


Endorsement No: 38854 issued on 29/05/2017
Date of Birth of Holder: 14/08/1978

Signature and Photograph of the Holder of the Certificate



Original Signature of the Holder of the Certificate



Signature of duty authorized official
Davis Mar35
Name of duty authorized official
Isle of Man Ship Registry
1st Floor St George's Court
Upper Church Street
Douglas, Isle of Man
IM1 1EX
British Isles
Tel: +44 (0)1624 688500
seafarers@gov.im

This certificate is issued by or on behalf of the Isle of Man under the responsibility of the United Kingdom as Flag State under the relevant Convention and remains the property of the Isle of Man Government and shall be surrendered on demand.

Unique Number

QR Code

Digital Signatures

Original Signature Here



Appendix 2 – A5 Format Endorsement.

Front:


Endorsement No: 38822

Isle of Man
Government


Endorsement Attesting the Recognition of a Certificate
Under the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 as amended.

The Government of the Isle of Man certifies that Certificate of Competency No: 123145-45 issued to: **John Bartram DOE** is duly recognised in accordance with the provisions of regulation 17C of the above Convention, as amended, and the lawful holder is authorised to perform the following functions at the levels specified, subject to any limitations indicated until: **31 December 2016**

DOB of Holder: 14/08/1981 Date of Issue: 15/07/2015




Signature of Holder of the Certificate



Signature of duly authorised official

Ashi Wal3944
Name of duly authorised official



This certificate is issued by or on behalf of the Isle of Man under the responsibility of the United Kingdom as Flag State under the relevant Convention and remains the property of the Isle of Man Government and must be surrendered on demand.

Back:

The lawful holder of this endorsement may serve in the following capacity or capacities specified in the applicable safe manning requirements of the Administration:

Capacity	Limitations applying (if any)
Chief Engineer	
Second Engineer	
Officer in charge of an Engineering watch	None

Function	Level	Limitations applying (if any)
Controlling the operations of the ship and care for persons on board	Operational	Not used on vessels
Marine Engineering	Operational	
Maintenance and Repair	Operational	
Electrical, Electronic and Control Engineering	Operational	

The original of this endorsement must be kept available in accordance with regulation 72, paragraph 9 of the Convention whilst serving in an Isle of Man registered ship.



Isle of Man Endorsement Application Process

Ref. MSN 051
Issued ## August
2017

Introduction.

This MSN provides information on the requirements for the application of an Isle of Man STCW Endorsement issued under the provisions of Regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention.

1. Isle of Man Endorsement requirements

The Isle of Man Ship Registry does not issue its own Certificates of Competency, but the Ship Registry is required by regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention to issue an endorsement recognising a National Certificate of Competency. Endorsements are required for all officers sailing on Isle of Man registered vessels unless they hold a Certificate of Competency (CoC) issued by the United Kingdom under the Convention.

Officers serving on Isle of Man registered vessels may be of any nationality and any residency provided they are holders of a CoC issued by one of the STCW 'white list' countries recognised by the Isle of Man.

The current list of recognised countries is attached in **Appendix 1** and all officers with a CoC issued by one of these countries may apply for an Isle of Man Endorsement.

If a seafarer holds a United Kingdom issued Certificate of Equivalent Competency (CEC) they **must** still apply for an Isle of Man Endorsement.

The Ship Registry does not normally accept applications from individual seafarers and applications should be made through the owner/operator or one of their manning agents.

2. How to apply for an Isle of Man Endorsement

To apply for an Isle of Man Endorsement, there are three options available, in hard copy via mail, via e-mail with scanned documents or using our online application service.

Hard copy: - Form A-1 (available on the Ship Registry website) must be completed and sent along with the required documentation to the Ship Registry by post or courier to the following addresses –

STCW Endorsement Applications
Isle of Man Ship Registry
Department of Economic Development
St Georges Court
Upper Church Street
Douglas, Isle of Man, British Isles, IM1 1EX

E-mail applications

If you intend to apply by e-mail, completed applications should be scanned in a high resolution (400 dpi or greater) and then e-mailed to Seafarers@gov.im in the following format: –

- A single multi-page legible pdf file containing the required documentation;
- A separate clear specimen signature page;
- A separate page containing a passport quality colour photograph.



List of required documents

The list of documents required to be submitted in order to apply for an endorsement is provided below. Please note that not all documents are required for every application, as it is dependent upon the type of vessel the officer will be serving on.

- Completed Form A-1 Endorsement Application Form with sections 3 and 4 signed (as appropriate);
- 1 passport quality colour photograph;
- 1 clear specimen signature on a white background (in blue or black ink);
- A clear and legible copy of the CoC and STCW Endorsement;
- Valid Medical Fitness Certificate (further information is available in MLN 1.2);
- Valid GMDSS Certificate (Deck Officers only);
- (If applicable) clear, legible and valid copies of the officer's certificates relating to dangerous goods – Oil, Gas, Chemicals as appropriate, where the dangerous goods endorsement is not included in the Certificate of Competency;
- (If applicable) other certificates/endorsements if they are required to be issued separately by the CoC (i.e. ARPA, ECDIS, passenger ship training, 1 KV, etc.)

Declarations

There are two declarations on the endorsement application form which must be signed by a Responsible Officer – this can be either a person employed by the Company, their crewing department or their Isle of Man representative person. The Responsible Officer cannot be an officer on the vessel the applicant is to serve on. The declarations are required from the Responsible Officer -

- a. for all applicants stating the applicant is proficient in spoken and written English. This is to ensure the applicant can use and understand orders, procedures, documents and other materials in English necessary for the functions to be performed on board; and
- b. for Masters, Chief Mates, Chief Engineers and Second Engineers stating the applicant is competent in matters relating to the Isle of Man's maritime legislation. In order to meet this requirement the Ship Registry requires senior officers to have an understanding of the requirements and procedures as detailed in the 'Master's handbook' published by the Isle of Man Ship Registry. There is a Master's handbook available for both merchant vessels and commercial yachts; both handbooks are available on the Isle of Man Ship Registry website.

Online Application Process

Registered users can log in at <https://mavis.iomshipregistry.com> once they have applied for a user account.

User accounts can be requested via seafarers@gov.im including your name, e-mail address and supplying a user name (for log in purposes).

Once an account has been created you will be supplied with a password and a user guide to enable you to log in and use the system. The user guide includes information of how to apply and the format of the information to be supplied.

Endorsement application process

The Ship Registry carries out checks on both the quality and the validity of all applications submitted. Each application, if acceptable for the issuance of an Endorsement, will be acknowledged with a Confirmation of Receipt of Application (CRA), a copy of which must be forwarded to the vessel. The CRA will be e-mailed directly to the company making the application.

However, if an application is of poor quality or incomplete no such documentation will be issued until an acceptable complete application is received.



If the officer is deemed suitable, an endorsement certificate will be issued as soon as possible, this is often issued on the same day as the application, but is normally within a few days of receipt of the application.

The STCW Convention allows a seafarer to serve on a vessel for 3 months without the original Isle of Man Endorsement being available on board; however, the seafarer must have a copy of the relevant CRA with him.

It is essential that the Company and master ensure that correct documentation is onboard. Port State Control examinations of crew certification can result in deficiencies or even detentions in the event of incorrect or missing documents.

Original versions of officers and crews certification must be available onboard as per Regulation I/2 of the STCW Convention.

Form of Endorsement

Endorsements will be printed on plain white A4 paper and printed in colour and will be single sided. The document will contain the signature of the officer issuing the Endorsement, a photograph and sample signature of the holder.

Upon receipt of the endorsement the holder must sign the document in the blue box on the front of the endorsement. The document is not deemed to be valid unless this box is signed.

An example of an Endorsement is provided in **Appendix 2** for information. This A4 style document is also fully compliant with the model certificate as outlined in the Convention.

In order to comply with our obligations as an ISO 14001 accredited organisation it is intended that this new A4 document will be e-mailed directly to the company making the application and it will be their responsibility to print the document, with a high quality colour printer and provide this to the seafarer. We will confirm with each individual company in advance that they can, in fact, produce documents to the required standard before they will be permitted to print the documents.

This will help reduce the amount of CO₂ and other greenhouse gasses produced by couriering documentation around the world.

The Ship Registry does not issue a separate GMDSS Endorsement for deck officers.

Expiry of an Endorsement

An Isle of Man Endorsement expires on the same date as the CoC it is endorsing expires, is withdrawn, suspended or cancelled by the issuing Administration. The maximum validity of an endorsement is 5 years.

Express processing service

For an additional fee the Ship Registry offers an express endorsement processing service for any urgent endorsement applications.

Fees and charges

Fees and charges for Isle of Man registered vessels are set by Regulations and the current Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations are available on the Ship Registry website.

Isle of Man Ship Registry

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give Legal Advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.



APPENDIX 1 – Recognised Countries

The Isle of Man recognises Certificates of Competency issued by the following countries:

Australia	Hong Kong	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Brazil	Iceland	Russian Federation
Bulgaria	India	Serbia
Canada	Ireland	Singapore
China	Italy	Slovakia
Croatia	Jamaica	Slovenia
Cuba	Latvia	South Africa
Cyprus	Lithuania	South Korea
Czech Republic	Malaysia	Spain
Denmark	Mexico	Sri Lanka
Estonia	Montenegro	Sweden
Faroe Islands	Netherlands	Ukraine
Finland	New Zealand	Union of Myanmar
France	Norway	United States of America
Germany	Pakistan	Vietnam
Ghana	Philippines	
Greece	Portugal	



APPENDIX 2: Example of A4 style Isle of Man Endorsement:



Endorsement Attesting the Recognition of a Certificate
Under the provisions of the International Convention on
Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping
for Seafarers 1978 as amended



Isle of Man Government
Immanis Ius Iustitia

The Government of the Isle of Man certifies that Certificate of Competency
Number **12345/456**
Issued To: **Jane DOE**
By or on behalf of the Government of: **New Zealand**

is duly recognised in accordance with the provisions of regulation I/10 of the above Convention, as amended, and the lawful holder is authorised to perform the following functions at the levels specified, subject to any limitations indicated until: **1 June 2020**

Capacity	Limitations applying (if any)
Chief Engineer	-
Second Engineer	-
Officer in charge of an Engineering Watch	None

Function	Level	Limitations applying (if any)
Controlling the operations of the ship and care for persons on board	Operational	Not valid on chemical tankers Not valid on gas tankers
Marine Engineering	Operational	Valid for motorships only
Maintenance and Repair	Operational	-
Electrical, Electronic and Control Engineering	Operational	-

Endorsement No: 38854 Issued on 29/06/2017
Date of Birth of Holder: 14/08/1976




Signature and Photograph of the Holder of the Certificate



Original Signature of the Holder of the Certificate



Signature of duly authorized official
Davi Mor35
Name of duly authorized official

Isle of Man Ship Registry
1st Floor St. George's Court
Upper Church Street
Douglas, Isle of Man
IM1 1EX
British Isles
Tel: +44 (0)1624 669500
seafarers@gov.im

This certificate is issued by or on behalf of the Isle of Man under the responsibility of the United Kingdom as Flag State under the Relevant Convention and remains the property of the Isle of Man Government and must be surrendered on demand.

