

Shipping Consultative Committee

Draft “Certificates of Proficiency for Ship Security Officers Determinations”

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek members’ comments on the draft “Certificates of Proficiency for Ship Security Officers Determinations” to implement the amendments to International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW Convention), as amended and the Seafarers’ Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code, which stipulate the mandatory minimum requirements for the issue of Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) for Ship Security Officers (SSO).

Background

2. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of IMO at its 81st session in May 2006 adopted resolutions MSC.203(81) and MSC.209(81), which amended the STCW Convention and STCW Code respectively. The amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2008. Every candidate for a CoP as SSO must have approved seagoing service and meet the standards of competence required for certification as ship security officer, set out in the new section A-VI/5 of the STCW Code.

3. Under Section 15 of the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers)(Certification of Officer) Regulation Cap. 478J, the Seafarers Authority (i.e. the Director of Marine) is empowered to make determinations in writing specifying any additional requirements as to the number and qualifications of officers for the manning of ships.

Proposal

4. To implement the amendments to STCW Convention and STCW Code, it is proposed that a new set of “Certificates of Proficiency for Ship Security Officers Determinations” be made for the issue of the CoP. A copy of the draft determinations is

attached to this paper. The requirements for the issue of the CoP basically follow those requirements specified under the above-mentioned IMO resolutions. The following main points are highlighted for members attention:

- a. Only officers will be eligible for the issue of CoP as SSO because the Determinations are to be made under the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers)(Certification of Officers) Regulation. The designation of a rating as SSO will not be considered under normal circumstances.
- b. Recognition of CoPs issued by other administrations are restricted to those countries which have signed the Undertaking with Marine Department under Reg. I/10 of the STCW Convention.
- c. The fee for the issue of a Certificate of Proficiency as Ship Security Officer is HK\$160, which is calculated based on the government's full cost recovery principle.

Action required by Members

5. Members' comment and endorsement are invited on the draft "Certificates of Proficiency as Ship Security Officers Determinations".

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