

Shipping Consultative Committee

Issue of Hong Kong Full Term Licences to Holders of Hong Kong Temporary Licences

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek members' endorsement for issuing Hong Kong Full Term Licences to certificate holders of 5 countries that have been recognized for the issue of Hong Kong Temporary Licences after the completion of the 2-year transitional period for observation of standards.

Background

2. The Validation Panel (VP) at its meeting in April 2003 endorsed to impose a 2-year transitional period, commenced from the date when a Hong Kong Temporary Licence was first issued, for observation before issuing full term Hong Kong licences to holders of certificates issued by countries that have signed undertakings with Hong Kong.
3. The VP was dissolved in April 2005 with its key functions and responsibilities taken over by the Shipping Consultative Committee.

Completion of the 2-year Transitional Period for Observation

4. The certificate holders of the following 5 countries recognized for the issue of Hong Kong Temporary Licence have completed the 2-year transitional period:

No.	Country	Date when the first licence was issued	No. of licences issued
1	Belgium	12 November 2004	13
2	Bulgaria	10 February 2004	1
3	Cyprus	20 September 2004	10
4	Egypt	2 November 2005	27
5	Spain	17 September 2003	14

5. As at 21 May 2008, the Seafarers' Certification Section received no adverse comments/feedbacks from ship owners/operators/ship management companies on the competency of the officers from these five countries.

Proposal

6. It is proposed that full term Hong Kong Licences could now be issued to the certificate holders of Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt and Spain.

Advice Sought

7. Members are invited to endorse the proposal in paragraph 7 above, and to provide comment where necessary.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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