



Antigua and Barbuda Maritime Administration

STCW Circular
No. 1998-003
Rev 2
12 April 2021

SUBJECT: Authenticity of Seafarer Documents

REFERENCE:

- a) *Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act 2006, as amended*
- b) *International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978 Regulation I/2*

TO: Ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, recognized filing agents.

1. PURPOSE

This Circular provides information on the policy of ADOMS towards the verification of the authenticity of seafarers' documents and explains the responsibilities of Companies and others towards ensuring that fraudulent documents are detected and rejected.

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2. APPLICATION

This Circular applies to all Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships.

3. BACKGROUND

Seafarers' Documents means the mandatory certificates held by a seafarer and issued by a certificate issuing party to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978 (as amended) (STCW) where the standards specified in the Convention have been met and on which basis the flag State Administration of Antigua and Barbuda will issue an Endorsement.

These are Certificates of Competency in accordance with STCW regulations II/1, II/2, II/3, III/1, III/2, III/3, III/6, IV/2 and VII/2, as well as Certificates in accordance with STCW regulations V/I-1, V/I-2, and VI/5.

4. OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Responsibilities Overview

1. The direct responsibilities for the Administration, the companies, filing agents and crewing companies are mainly derived from the STCW Convention and arise from:

1. Regulation. I/9
2. Regulation. I/10
3. Regulation. I/14 Reg. VI/1

2. Responsibilities derived from STCW Regulation I/9 and Regulation I/10:

1. The maritime administration of Antigua and Barbuda recognises, like the IMO, that verification of the validity of Certificates of Competency and other documents issued to seafarers is essential to prevent unlawful practices associated with the issue of certificates. This Administration will hold responsible all companies, filing agents and crewing companies for the verification of the authenticity and validity of any seafarers' documents used for application of flag State endorsements.
2. Companies, filing agents and crewing companies are required to ensure that:
 1. Certificates of Competency and Endorsements produced by national certificate issuing Parties are counter-checked with the certificate issuing party for authenticity and validity prior to submitting them to ADOMS for recognition, and
 2. That evidence of this procedure is given by an official statement of the certificate-issuing parties called the verification. This verification is an indispensable part of the application for recognition of any certificate by Antigua and Barbuda.

3. Control

1. Companies should instruct the recruiting crewing companies on the above requirements through written company procedures.

Issued by

Antigua and Barbuda
Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping
(ADOMS) St. John's