



THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 61

Issue of Endorsements to Certificates of Competency

Guidance for Shipowners, Managers and their Manning Agents, Masters, Bahamas Recognised Organisations and Approved Inspectors

This bulletin replaces previous bulletins dealing with endorsements to certificates to be held by Masters and officers on Bahamian ships. It is to be read in conjunction with Bulletins Nos. 30, 31, 45

NOTE: The following bulletins are cancelled Nos. 16, 20, 25 and 32

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1. Flag State endorsements are required for officers (as defined in STCW Reg. I/1) on a Bahamian ships as follows:

Master	Chief Mate	Officer in charge of a Navigational Watch (Deck officer)
Chief Engineer	Second Engineer	Officer in charge of an Engineering Watch (Engineer officer)
 2. In addition, every Master, Chief Mate and Officer in charge of a Navigational Watch on a Bahamian ship is also required to hold a separate GMDSS Endorsement.
 3. Applications for endorsements should be submitted by the company responsible for the operation of the ship or their manning agents.
 4. Each application should be accompanied by:
 - a completed application form
 - a clear copy of the original of the officer's National Certificate of Competency, including the officer's endorsement from the National issuing authority that verifies the Certificate of Competency to have a valid date of expiry and a clear copy of the photograph that appears on the Certificate of Competency or endorsement. The original must have been sighted by the submitting company and the copy guaranteed as true by that company.
 - A passport sized photograph of the officer that is comparable with the copy of the photograph that appears on the original Certificate of Competency or endorsement.
 - Payment, in accordance with the scale in force at the time as listed on Bulletin No. 45 or any Bulletin that may subsequently supersede that.

5. On receipt of the above a Certificate of Receipt of Application (CRA) will be issued, this will allow the officer to serve in the ranks set out in his/her national Certificate of Competency for up to 3 months or until the final endorsement is issued. (STCW I/10).
6. Where any element of the application requirements is not included with the application or the copy or the photograph is not clearly identifiable, the application will be set to one side and clarification sought from the applicant company. The CRA may be issued pending the outcome of that clarification, depending upon what information or documents are missing or unclear.
7. Where payment is made separately from the application, such payment must contain sufficient details to clearly identify to which applications the payment refers.

Verification of the issue of a Flag State Endorsement

8. Any National Administration, owner, employer, manager or manning agent of any such employer or manager is able to seek verification of the issue of an endorsement at the contact numbers or address listed below.
9. The office of the Bahamas Maritime Authority that deals with the process of certification and endorsements is situated in London, UK. They may be contacted numbers and addresses at the foot of this page.
10. It should be noted that the following qualifications do not require Flag State endorsement:
 - Navigational watch rating (STCW II/4)
 - E R watch rating (STCW III/4)
 - Rating assigned to specific duties on Tankers (STCW V/1)
 - Ro-Ro passenger ships (STCW V/2)
 - Passenger ships, other than Ro-Ro (STCW V/3)
 - Basic Safety Training (STCW VI/1)
 - Survival craft, rescue boats and fast rescue boats (STCW VI/2)
 - Advanced fire fighting (STCW VI/3)
 - Medical first aid and medical care (STCW VI/4)
11. The qualifications issued listed above are recognised by the Bahamas Maritime Authority providing that they have been approved by an Administration that has demonstrated to the IMO that it has given full and complete effect to the relevant provisions of the Convention (i.e. it is on the so-called White List.)

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