



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 121

Countries Recognised by The Bahamas in Accordance with STCW Regulation I/10

Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations, Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers, Masters, Seafarers, Recruitment & Placement Service and Training Provider

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Bulletin provides guidance on the countries with which The Bahamas has signed an agreement, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation I/10 of The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW), to recognise certificates and issue Bahamas Flag State Endorsements (FSE) to a Master, Officer, GMDSS Radio Operator or other applicable seafarer, who are certified by the recognised country.
- 1.2. This Bulletin should be read in conjunction with IMO MSC.1/Circ. 1163 as revised, BMA Information Bulletin Nos. 86, 103, 104, 105, 106, 118, 127, 130, 137, 140, 147 and any other BMA Information Bulletins relating to training and certification of seafarers.

2. Application and interpretation

2.1. This Bulletin applies to:

- i. All Bahamian ships to which STCW is applicable;
- ii. All persons serving or intending to serve on Bahamian ships to which STCW is applicable and whom require a STCW FSE;
- iii. Companies employing, recruiting or selecting the seafarers noted above, for service on board Bahamian ships.

3. General

- 3.1 The list of countries recognised by The Bahamas is contained in the Annex.
- 3.2 All parties should note that the process for recognition can only be carried with a country, or the Maritime Administration acting on behalf of a country, that is party to STCW.
- 3.3 A Company seeking to employ a person as noted in 2.1 who has a certificate from a STCW country that is not recognized by The Bahamas should engage with that country.
- 3.3 Notwithstanding that a country is party to STCW, it remains the prerogative of The Bahamas as to whether an STCW recognition agreement will be entered into with a country and if so, the conditions relating to the same.

4. Queries

Any queries in relation to STCW recognition can be directed to the BMA [at stcw@bahamasmaritime.com](mailto:stcw@bahamasmaritime.com).

5. Revision record

Rev.4 (04 August 2016) - [Inclusion of Ethiopia as a recognised country for STCW Chapter III Certificate of Competency \(CoC\) and reference to BMA Technical Alert 15-23 in relation to Belize CoC](#)

Rev.3 (17 September 2015) – Deletion of reference to application to non-STCW certificates

Rev.2 (26 September 2014) – Inclusion of Jordan and Papua New Guinea. Amendment of Netherlands

Rev.1 (03 July 2014) – Complete revision. Inclusion of Nigeria as recognised country.

Rev.0 (30 September 2009) – First issue in revised format

ANNEX – List of Countries with which The Bahamas has concluded an agreement for Recognition of Certificates under STCW 1978, as amended, Regulation I/10 (This list is effective: 18 September 2015)

Algeria	Latvia
Argentina	Liberia
Australia	Lithuania
Bangladesh	Malaysia
Belgium	Myanmar
Belize*	Mexico
Brazil	Montenegro
Bulgaria	Morocco
Canada	Netherlands, including Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten
Cape Verde	New Zealand
Chile	Nigeria
China, including Hong Kong	Norway
Columbia	Pakistan
Croatia	Panama
Cuba	Papua New Guinea
Cyprus	Peru
Czech Republic	Philippines
Denmark, including Faroe Islands	Poland
Ecuador	Portugal
Egypt	Romania
Estonia	Russia
Ethiopia	Serbia
Finland	Singapore
France	Slovak Republic
Germany	Slovenia
Georgia	South Africa
Ghana	Spain
Greece	Sri Lanka
Hong Kong	Sweden
Hungary	Switzerland
Iceland	Thailand
India	Turkey
Indonesia	Ukraine
Ireland	United Kingdom
Israel	Uruguay
Italy	United States of America
Jamaica	Vanuatu
Japan	Venezuela
Jordan	Viet Nam
Korea, Republic of	
Kuwait	

* Only for Certificate of Competency issued prior 14 November 2014. See BMA Technical Alert 15-23 or contact the BMA for additional guidance.