



## TECHNICAL ALERT No. 15-07

---

### Validity of Bahamas Flag State Endorsement

---

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Technical Alert is to remind all parties that the maximum validity period of a Bahamas Flag State Endorsement (FSE) is five (5) years.

#### 2. General

- 2.1. In accordance with provisions of Regulation I/10 of the International Convention of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended (STCW), The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) issues FSE in order to recognise STCW certificates issued by countries with which The Bahamas has a STCW Recognition Agreement.
- 2.2. The BMA is mindful that some Administrations have a process of extending the validity of a National STCW Certificate of Competency (CoC) and this may result in the CoC having a validity date that exceeds 5 years.
- 2.3. Notwithstanding the national process, all parties shall note that in accordance with the provisions of Regulation I/2.8.4 of STCW, The Bahamas FSE cannot exceed five (5) years from the date that the FSE is issued.
- 2.4. Seafarers with a national certificate that exceed five years shall liaise with their National Administration, as the BMA is unable to consider any request to align the validity of the FSE with the expiry date of the National CoC if this will result in The Bahamas FSE having an expiry date that exceeds five (5) years from The Bahamas FSE date of issue.
- 2.5. The BMA will continue to issue CRAs valid for three (3) months whilst The Bahamas FSE is being processed, in accordance with the STCW provisions.

- 2.6. Affected seafarers and Companies employing such seafarers should note the above and take the same into consideration when submitting applications for a Bahamas FSE.

### **3. Validity**

- 3.1. This Technical Alert is valid until further notice.

### **4. Revision History**

Rev.0 (28 January 2015) – First issue