



The Bahamas Maritime Authority

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 106

TANKER TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENT

Guidance for Shipowners, Managers, Masters, Bahamas Recognised Organisations, Bahamas Approved Inspectors, Bahamian Seafarers and other Seafarers serving on Bahamian registered ships.

Note: This Bulletin is to be read in conjunction with BMA Information Bulletin Nos 81, 86, 103, 115, 121, 124, 129, 130

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This bulletin provides guidance relating to training and certification for persons sailing onboard tankers.
- 1.2. The Bahamas Merchant Shipping (*Training, Certification, Manning and Watchkeeping*) Regulation (Bahamas Regulations) , International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978 as amended (STCW Convention or Regulations) and the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code) requires the master, officers, ratings and appropriate persons, who are assigned cargo related duties on board tankers to be duly trained and certificated for the type of tanker on which they are serving.
- 1.3. The Bahamas Regulations are being finalised to incorporate the 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention and STCW Code. All parties should note that 2010 STCW certificates can only be issued by an STCW party.

- 1.4. For the purpose of this Bulletin, the following definitions apply:
- .i *Approved seagoing service* is sea service carried out onboard the tanker type for which that application is submitted. The sea service must have included cargo loading and discharging operations.
 - .ii *Approved training* is training that satisfies the requirements of STCW Code A-V and has been approved by the Bahamas or an STCW party with whom The Bahamas has a recognition agreement.
 - .iii *Manning Company* is the entity who has accepted responsibility for the assignment of seafarers for service onboard Bahamian registered ships in accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/14. The "ISM Company," as defined below, shall report the full name and details of such entity (e.g. manning agents) to the Seafarers and Manning department of the BMA. This notification, as well as any changes of the entity, shall be made either completing the 'Manning' section of Bahamas form *R104* or submitting a letter of declaration to that effect. (The letter shall be on the headed paper of Registered Owner or Manager).
 - .iv The *ISM Company* is the entity, designated under SOLAS Chapter IX/1.2 that assumes the duties and responsibilities imposed by International Safety Management (ISM) Code.
 - .v A *senior officer* is a person assigned to the vessel as a master, chief officer, chief engineer, second engineer or a qualified dedicated cargo officer.
- 1.5. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) will accept application for the renewal and or revalidation of STCW (1995 amendment) certification and/or endorsements as follows:
- .i The certificates issued under STCW (1995 amendment) will not be valid after 31 December 2016.
 - .ii The BMA will accept applications for the issuance, recognition and endorsement of **1995 STCW** certificates for seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, under an approved education and training programme or an approved training course before 1 July 2013. For applications relating to this acceptance, the applicant shall provide documentary evidence that the seagoing service and/or training had commenced prior to 01 July 2013. This provision will only provide for certificates and endorsement up to 31 December 2016. No such documents will be valid beyond that date.

2 Persons to whom this bulletin applies

- 2.1 The information in this Bulletin applies to all persons serving or intending to serve on Bahamas registered tankers in a capacity for which training and/or certification is required in accordance with the STCW Convention.
- 2.2 The definition of persons with “immediate responsibility” for cargo operations on board that require advanced/specialised tanker training, in compliance with STCW Convention Regulation V/1-1.3 (oil), V/1-1.5 (chemical) or V/1-2.3 (gas) is dependent upon the scope of operational duties on board with respect to cargo operations. The BMA recognises that on some ships, officers, other than senior officers and dedicated cargo officers, may be assigned such ‘immediate’ responsibility for a cargo watch or cargo operations and accordingly such persons will be required to hold specialised tanker training certification.
- 2.3 The “ISM Company” must make clear definitions within its Safety Management procedures (cargo operations) where a junior officer that works under the Instructions of the chief officer or a dedicated cargo officer is expected to undertake such “immediate responsibility.” In such cases then those applicable junior officers must also be certificated to STCW Regulations V/1-1.3 (oil), V/1-1.5 (chemical) or V/1-2.3 (gas) as appropriate. This may be, for example, in circumstances where an officer in nominal overall control is unavailable through limitation of hours of work or rest procedures.
- 2.4 Companies submitting applications shall ensure that the seafarer satisfies the applicable STCW and International Labour Organisation’s age and medical requirements.
- 2.5 Applications must be submitted by the owner, manager or the manning company as specified in section 1.4.iii above of the ships on which the seafarer is or will be employed.
 - 2.5.1 Where an applicant’s tanker endorsement, under STCW Convention V/1 is recorded in their national certificate of competency, there is no requirement for a separate Bahamas flag State tanker endorsement.
 - 2.5.2 If the Officer has a separate tanker certificate(s), a similar separate Bahamas flag State tanker endorsement is required for each certificate.
- 2.6 In either case described in 2.5 above the original certificates of STCW Regulation V/1 compliance must be held on board.
- 2.7 Officers to whom 2.5.2 apply that hold a Bahamas flag State endorsement to their certificate of competency issued prior to the date of this bulletin, must apply for a Bahamas flag State tanker endorsement before 01 January 2012.

3. Tanker training and certificates

3.1. General

3.1.1. All parties should note that The Bahamas issues:

- .i Tanker certification for applicants, who provide documentary evidence of compliance with the applicable STCW requirements, for assessment by the BMA;
- .ii Bahamas flag State endorsements for persons who hold tanker certification issued by a STCW party with whom The Bahamas has an STCW recognition agreement.

3.1.2. With effect from 01 January 2012, a flag State endorsement will be required for a certificate of proficiency issued to officers in accordance with the STCW 2010 amendments, Regulation V/1-1(Oil and Chemical tankers advanced training) and V/1-2 (liquefied gas tanker advanced training). From that date the BMA will issue a documentary proof of application to:

- .i all officers applying for a Bahamas flag State endorsement for compliance with for STCW (1995 amendments) Regulation V/1;
- .ii all officers applying for a Bahamas flag State endorsement for compliance with for STCW (2010 amendments) Regulations V/1-1 and V/1-2.

3.1.3. The applicant may apply for a Bahamas tanker certificate or a Bahamas flag State endorsement of the national certificate and in this regards, the process outlined in Section 4 should be followed.

3.1.4. A Bahamas flag State tanker endorsement will be valid for the same period as the national certificate.

3.2. 1995 STCW Amendments

3.2.1. THIS SECTION REFERS ONLY TO CERTIFICATES ISSUED UNDER THE 1995 AMENDMENTS TO THE STCW CONVENTION.

3.2.2. In accordance with STCW Convention (1995 amendments) Regulation V/1, officers, ratings and appropriate persons to whom this requirement complies shall be trained in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Code (1995 amendments) and have a certificate to verify compliance.

3.2.3. Tanker familiarisation

All persons shall ensure that they have documentary evidence of compliance with the requirements of STCW Regulations (1995 amendments) V/1.1. Acceptable evidence of compliance is:

- .i Appropriate fire fighting training, **and**
- .ii Tanker familiarisation certificate issued by or on behalf of a country with which the Bahamas has an STCW agreement appropriate for the tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties or 3 months sea service on board a tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties. The BMA will accept 1 month supervised sea service that satisfies the requirement of STCW (1995 amendments) V/1.1.3 to 6

3.2.3. Specialised tanker training

All persons shall ensure that they have documentary evidence of compliance with the requirements of STCW Regulations (1995 amendments) V/1.2. Acceptable evidence of compliance is:

- .i Tanker familiarization certificate issued by or on behalf of a country which the Bahamas has an STCW agreement appropriate for the tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties OR 3 months sea service on board a tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties, **and**
- .ii Specialized tanker training certificate issued by or on behalf of a country which the Bahamas has an STCW agreement appropriate for the tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties, **and**
- .iii Additional 3 months sea service on the tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties

3.2.4. The applicant may apply for a Bahamas tanker certificate or a Bahamas flag State endorsement of the national certificate and in this regards, the process outlined in Section 4 should be followed

3.3. 2010 STCW Amendments

3.3.1 THIS SECTION REFERS TO THE 2010 AMENDMENTS TO THE STCW CONVENTION.

3.3.2 In accordance with STCW Convention (2010) Regulation V/1-1, officers, ratings and appropriate persons to whom this requirement applies shall be trained in accordance with the provisions of that Regulation and the associated STCW Code and have a certificate of proficiency to verify compliance.

3.3.3 Basic tanker training

All persons shall ensure that they have documentary evidence of compliance with the requirements of STCW (2010) Regulations V/1-1.1 and V/1-2.1. Acceptable documentary evidence of compliance is:

- .i Basic training in accordance with the STCW Code A-VI/1, **and**
- .ii Basic tanker training certificate of proficiency issued by a country which the Bahamas has an STCW agreement appropriate for the tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties or 3 months sea service onboard a tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties plus an attestation that the candidate meets the knowledge and competence as in the STCW Code A-V/1-1.1.2.

3.3.4 Advanced Tanker Training

All persons shall ensure that they have documentary evidence of compliance with the requirements of STCW Convention (2010) Regulations V/1-1.3 (oil), V/1-1.5 (chemical) or V/1-2.3 (gas). Acceptable documentary evidence of compliance is:

- .i Basic Tanker training certificate of proficiency issued by a country which the Bahamas has an STCW agreement appropriate for the tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties or 3 months sea service onboard a tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties, **and**
- .ii Advanced tanker training certificate issued by a country which the Bahamas has an STCW agreement appropriate for the tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties, **and**
- .iii An additional 3 months sea service on the tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties.

3.3.5 The applicant may apply for a Bahamas tanker certificate of proficiency or a Bahamas flag State endorsement of the national certificate. In this regard, the process outlined in Section 4 should be followed.

3.4. Revalidation

For the purpose of revalidation, the BMA will accept the following as evidence of continued professional competence:

- .i evidence of approved seagoing service for a period of at least 12 months in the preceding 5 years; or
- .ii evidence of having performed functions considered by the BMA to be equivalent to the required seagoing service; or

- .iii evidence of successful completion of an approved tanker course(s);
or
- .iv evidence of completing approved seagoing service in the capacity of the certificate held, for a period of not less than 3 months in a supernumerary capacity, or lower rank in the six months immediately prior to serving in the capacity of the certificate to be revalidated.

4. Submission of application for Tanker certificate, Tanker certificate of proficiency or Bahamas flag State endorsement

- 4.1. The Company should submit an application utilising the BMA's application form (see [BMA Information Bulletin No. 124](#)) that is available from the download page of the BMA website to the BMA [at](#) one of the addresses in section 4.2, below, with the following information:
- .i Valid medical certificate. This document must be issued by a medical practitioner approved by a country with whom the Bahamas has a STCW recognition agreement,
 - .ii Documentary evidence satisfying the standards of competence specified in applicable STCW Code (2010). (For this purpose, any approved training shall make a clear reference to the STCW requirements). The application must clearly state the path of the approved training programme.
 - .iii Documentary evidence of seagoing service, if applicable. This information (name and IMO number of ship, capacity that the applicant served, dates served) may be provided as an extract from a seaman record book, copy of certificate of discharge or letter from the Company
 - .iv applicable fee (see [BMA Information Bulletin No. 81](#)).
- 4.2. The completed application and supporting documentation shall be submitted to the BMA as follows:-

For applications from Europe, UK, Middle East and African regions

The Bahamas Maritime Authority,
Seafarers and Manning Department,
120 Old Board Street,
London, EC2N 1AR,
United Kingdom.

For applications from North or South America and the Caribbean regions:-

The Bahamas Maritime Authority,
Third Floor
Manx Corporate Centre,
West Bay Street,
PO Box N-4679,
Nassau, New Providence,
Bahamas.

For applications from the Asia Pacific region:-

The Bahamas Maritime Authority,
Room 2019 – 2020,
20th Floor,
Hutchison House,
10 Harcourt Road,
Hong Kong

5. General

- 5.1. Failure to follow any of these guidelines may result in an application either being severely delayed or possibly rejected.
- 5.2. If the certificate is not received within two (2) months of the application, the Company should contact the Seafarers and Manning Department in the Office to which the application was submitted. This will enable the company and the BMA to address any identified problems with the application.
- 5.3. If a Company requires documents to be processed within one (1) month of application, the BMA should be advised with the application. The provision of this “fast track” service will be subjected to an additional fee.
- 5.4. Correspondence relating to applications will be sent to the Companies as listed on the application form and all parties are encouraged to provide a generic email address in order to avoid any delays in the application process.

- 5.5. Lost certificates or endorsements
- 5.5.1. The BMA should immediately be notified of any certificate that is reported as being lost or destroyed. The notification should include the following information:
- .i Name of seafarer;
 - .ii Date of Birth;
 - .iii Nationality;
 - .iv Affected Certificate/Endorsement number, if known;
 - .v Request for duplicate certificate, if applicable.
- 5.5.2. A duplicate certificate will be issued subject to receiving the above information plus a copy of a valid medical certificate and the applicable fee (See [BMA Information Bulletin No. 81](#)).
- 5.5.3. If a lost Certificate is subsequently found, the company shall return it to the BMA.
- 5.5.4. The BMA continues to monitor measures to reduce the loss of documents in transit.
- 5.6. Enquiries relating to applications should be made to the office to which the original applicant was sent or to the Seafarers & Manning Department, London at stcw@bahamasmaritime.com .

6. Fees

- 6.1. The fees for tanker certificates are the same as for other BMA certificates or endorsements. Please refer to [BMA Information Bulletin No. 81](#).
- 6.2. The fast track service specified in 5.3 will be charged as a professional fee. Please refer to [BMA Information Bulletin No. 81](#).

Annex 1: Checklist for Tanker Certification

Bahamas tanker familiarisation certificate/basic tanker certificate of proficiency

Required documentary evidence \ STCW document	1995 STCW Tanker familiarisation certificate	2010 STCW Basic tanker certificate of proficiency
Medical certificate		
Advanced fire fighting training*		
Valid basic safety training*		
Tanker familiarization/ Basic tanker training OR 3 months sea service on tankers		

**Not required if applicant is an Officer with a valid Certificate of Competency issued under STCW Chapter II or III as this training is a part of that qualification*

**Bahamas Flag State Endorsement of Tanker Familiarization certificate/
Basic Tanker Certificate of Proficiency (A CRA will be issued for these applications)**

Required documentary evidence \ STCW document	1995 STCW Tanker Familiarisation Certificate	2010 STCW Basic Tanker Certificate of Proficiency
Valid medical certificate		
Valid Tanker familiarization/Basic Tanker Certificate	Issued by or on behalf of an STCW party which the Bahamas has a recognised STCW agreement	Issued by STCW party which the Bahamas has a recognized STCW Agreement

Bahamas Tanker Endorsement Certificate / Specialised Tanker Certificate of Proficiency

STCW document Required documentary evidence	1995 STCW Tanker Endorsement Certificate	2010 STCW Specialised Tanker Certificate of Proficiency
Medical certificate		
Advanced fire fighting training*		
Valid Basic safety training*		
Specialised Course for tanker type in accordance with the STCW Code		
Tanker familiarization /Basic Tanker Certificate OR 3 months sea service on tankers		
3 months sea service on the tanker type		

**Not required if applicant is an Officer with a valid Certificate of Competency issued under STCW Chapter II or III as this training is a part of that qualification*

Bahamas Flag State Endorsement of Tanker endorsement certificate/Specialized Tanker Certificate of Proficiency (A CRA will be issued for these applications)

STCW document Required documentary evidence	1995 STCW Tanker Familiarisation Certificate	2010 STCW Basic Tanker Certificate of Proficiency
Valid medical certificate		
Valid Tanker Endorsement Certificate / Specialised Tanker Certificate of Proficiency	Issued by or on behalf of an STCW party which the Bahamas has a recognised STCW Agreement	Issued by an STCW party which the Bahamas has a recognized STCW Agreement