



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: 29 January 2020)

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

* Certificates of Proficiency accepted. Certificates of Competency are not recognised.