
Tanker Training Certificates and Endorsements

Notice to ship owners, managers, Masters, Approved Nautical Inspectors, Recognised Organisations and surveyors

This Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.106

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Marine Notice details the requirements relating to the training and certification for persons sailing onboard tankers.
- 1.2. This Marine Notice shall be read in conjunction with Marine Notices 012, 028, 018, 013, 019, 020, 004 and 050.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. For the purpose of this Marine Notice, 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 R.104 or by 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.

2. Persons to Whom This Marine Notice Applies

- 2.1. This Marine Notice 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 vessel’s owner, manager or the manning company (refer 1.4.iii above) of the ship(s) on which the seafarer is or will be employed.
 - .i 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.

- .ii 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 paragraph 2.5 the original certificates of STCW Regulation V/1 compliance must be held on board.
- 2.7. Officers to whom 2.5.ii applies and that hold a Bahamas flag State endorsement to their certificate of competency issued prior to the date of this Marine Notice, must apply for a Bahamas flag State tanker endorsement.

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. A flag State endorsement is 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 (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 regard, 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. 2010 STCW Amendments

- 3.2.1. 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. Basic Tanker Training

- 3.3.1. 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 safety 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.

3.4. Advanced Tanker Training

- 3.4.1. 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 month's sea service on the tanker type on which they have been assigned cargo duties.
- 3.4.2. 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.

3.5. Revalidation

- 3.5.1. 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 of Proficiency or Bahamas Flag State Endorsement.

- 4.1. Applications for Tanker certificates of proficiency or endorsement shall be submitted by the Owner or Company appointed by the owners of the vessel. Applications will only be accepted from Companies who are engaged in the employment, recruitment, or selection of persons for service on Bahamian ships. Where the BMA has any doubt as to the connection of a Company or Seafarer to a Bahamian ship, additional information shall be requested from the Company making the application, in order to confirm the eligibility of the Company to make the application.
- 4.2. The BMA's web-based system (BORIS) shall be used for submitting seafarer applications for all seafarer documents. BORIS enables companies to securely submit seafarers' applications and supporting documentation electronically, receive confirmation of receipt of application (CRA) and track the progress of the application in real time. The process to register to access BORIS is stated in Information Notice 15. Once registration is complete, the applying company will be assigned a dedicated BMA Account Manager to assist with all Seafarer application related queries.
- 4.3. Companies shall submit applications at the earliest opportunity, taking into consideration the BMA's processing timescale (currently 1 month from the date of receipt of the application). This is to ensure there are no delays to any vessels due to missing documentation.
- 4.4. Should a Company require documents to be processed within one (1) month, the 'fast track' service option shall be selected when submitting the application (in BORIS). Standard applications already entered into BORIS which subsequently become urgent, can be 'elevated' to the fast track service. This option shall be discussed with applying company's customer account manager.
- 4.5. The following supporting documents shall be provided for Tanker certification:
- .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).
Approved training shall make a clear reference to the STCW requirements.
The application shall clearly state the path of the approved training programme.
 - .iii Documentary evidence of seagoing service, if applicable.
This information (name and IMO number of the 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.
- 4.6. Except for tanker certificates of proficiency applications, the BORIS system will release a Confirmation of Receipt of Application (CRA) where a flag state endorsement application is submitted. In accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/10.5, seafarers are permitted to serve on a Bahamian ship for up to three months provided the affected seafarer has a CRA.
- 4.7 The maximum validity of a CRA is 3 months and cannot be extended.

5. General

5.1. Miscellaneous

- 5.1.1. Failure to follow these guidelines before submitting applications via BORIS may result in an application being severely delayed or possibly rejected.
- 5.1.2. If the certificate is not received within two (2) months of the application, the applying Company shall contact the Seafarers and Manning Department via the BMA Office to which the application was submitted.
- 5.1.3. Correspondence relating to applications will be sent to the Company email address as registered in BORIS. Persons registered to access BORIS shall ensure their contact details are up to date and provide a generic email address to avoid delays with the application process.

5.2. Lost Documents and Duplicate Requests

- 5.2.1. The BMA shall be notified immediately of any certificate that is reported as being lost or destroyed. The notification shall include the following information:
 - .i Full Name of Seafarer.
 - .ii Seafarer's Date of Birth.
 - .iii Seafarer's Nationality.
 - .iv Details of the affected Certificate/Endorsement number, if known.
 - .v A Request for duplicate certificate, if applicable.

- 5.2.2. A duplicate certificate will only be issued on receipt of the above information plus documentary evidence of a valid medical certificate and the applicable fee (See BMA Marine Notice 50).
- 5.2.3. Should a 'lost' Certificate subsequently be found, the company shall immediately return it to the BMA.

5. Fees

- 6.1. Fees for tanker certificates - refer to BMA Marine Notice 050.
- 6.2. The 'fast track' service specified in 4.4 shall be charged as a professional service. Please refer to BMA Marine Notice 050.

6. Queries

- 6.1.1. Any queries relating to submitted applications in BORIS shall be made directly to the company's assigned BORIS Account Manager. Alternatively, please contact stcw@bahamasmaritime.com or any BMA office.

