

## Seafarers Department Notice

### IMMARBE

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

#### CONSIDERATION FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY BEYOND 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2016

**TO:** Holders of Belize COCs, Maritime Administrations, Port State Control Authorities/MOU's, Deputy Registrars, Ship Owners, Ship Operators and All other Concerned Parties.

**ISSUANCE DATE:** 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Revision No. N/A

**REFERENCE:** MSC.1-Circ.1560 - Advice for Parties Administrations, Port State Control Authorities and Recognized Organizations on action to be taken in cases where not all seafarers carry certificates and endorsements meeting the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code from 1 January 2017.

**MSN SUPERSEDED:** SDC-16-04 Moratorium on Belize Certificate of Competence and Validity of COCs After December 31 2016

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The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-seventh session (21 to 25 November 2016), expressed concern about the implementation of the 2010 STCW Manila Amendments in light of the imminent end, on 1 January 2017, of the transitional provisions laid down in the STCW Convention, regulation I/15.

Also the Committee recognized that seafarers on board many ships may not yet hold their certificates or flag State endorsements meeting the 2010 Manila Amendments to the Convention and urged port State control authorities to take the above factors into consideration when taking action under the control procedures.

The Committee agreed that, in cases where a seafarer's documentation complied with the requirements in force immediately before 1 January 2017, but was not in accordance with the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, Port State control authorities, until 1 July 2017, were recommended to take a pragmatic and practical approach during inspections and to notify the ships, seafarers and Administrations concerned accordingly.

Rooted on the above recommendation from IMO and understanding the many challenges being faced by seafarers in obtaining new certificates and flag endorsements under the 2010 Manila Amendments to the Convention, the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize hereby requests that other Maritime Administrations and Port State Control authorities take this into consideration and exercise leniency when carrying inspections manned by Belize CoC holders up until June 30th, 2017 so as to grant them sufficient time to obtain new certification under the 2010 Manila Amendments.

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize thanks in advance all maritime administrations that continue to recognize Belize COC until this new deadline and appreciate the consideration of all Port State Control authorities. We also take the opportunity to urge all seafarers to seek proper certification under the new 2010 Manila Amendments.

For any questions, information or queries on the above, please contact IMMARBE Head Office:

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE

Tel: (501)223-5023/20531/2047

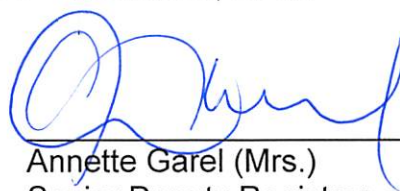
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This Notice was issued in Belize City, Belize on 13<sup>TH</sup> December, 2016.



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