



International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize
IMMARBE

To: **Seafarer Agents and Deputy Registrars**

From: **IMMARBE**

Fax:

Pages: **3 (including cover)**

Our Ref: **SD/F/12/01**

Your Ref:

Date: **14 June 2012**

NOTICE

**SUBJECT: REVISED CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIP SECURITY OFFICERS
(SSO) ON BOARD BELIZE-REGISTERED VESSELS, SDC-12/01**

Dear All,

The purpose of this Seafarers Department Notice is to inform all Seafarer Agents and Deputy Registrars of our revised certification requirements for Ship Security Officers (SSO) on board Belize-registered Vessels.

As you are aware, our Seafarers Department Circular SDC-12/01 dated 19 March 2012, which entered into force on 1st May 2012, requires that all Deck Officers and Engineering Officers be issued with a Belize SSO Certificate; however, IMMARBE has decided to revise and temporarily amend these requirements, as follows:

1. As of 15 June 2012 a SSO Certificate shall be issued to:

- 1.1. Seafarers who apply for a **Belize Endorsement (COE) in any capacity as Deck Officers** (Master, Chief Mate and Officer in charge of a navigational watch) under Chapter II of the STCW Convention 1978, as amended, **are required to comply forthwith.**
- 1.2. Seafarers who apply for a **Belize Certificate of Competency (COC) in any capacity as Deck** (Master, Chief Mate and Officer in charge of a navigational watch) **and Engineering Officers** (Chief Engineer, Second Engineer and Officer in charge of an engineering watch) under Chapters II and III of the STCW Convention 1978, as amended, **and are required to comply forthwith.**
- 1.3. **Deck Officers** (Master, Chief Mate and Officer in charge of a navigational watch) **who already hold a Belize COE and are currently on board existing Belize-flagged vessels**, e. g.: those vessels registered before 1st May 2012,

will be granted a period of 6 months to comply with these requirements. This period will end on **31 October 2012**.

In addition, in order to ensure a smooth and prompt implementation of these requirements, IMMARBE will accept that in lieu of a Certificate of Proficiency as SSO, Deck Officers **other than the ship's SSO and alternate SSO and falling within paragraphs 1.1 and 1.3 above**, may submit an affidavit to the effect that he/she has received training on board by the Ship's SSO or Company Security Officer and has obtained appropriate knowledge according to the standards laid down in the mandatory provisions of Section A-VI/5 of the STCW Code, as amended, and Regulation VI/5 of the STCW Convention 1978, as amended, as well as in ISPS-A/11 and 12 and in ISPS-B/13.1 and 13.2, inter alia:

- Methods of ship security surveys and inspection
- Ship and port operations and conditions
- Ship and port facility security measures
- Emergency preparedness and response, ship security level
- handling sensitive security-related information and security-related communication (i.e. ship's certificates: ISSC, CSR, DOS, relevant records)
- The layout of the ship
- The Ship Security Plan
- Operations of security equipment and systems

Furthermore, in order to accept the affidavit, as a minimum it must state:

- the seafarer's name, nationality, rank and Belize Endorsement No. and national COC Number;
- the name of the vessel, the date, location and time at which the seafarer was provided with the on-board training; and
- that the on-board training has been duly documented in the ship's logbook and in the company's security files, after completion of the same and is available for inspection.

We wish to reiterate that on-board training in lieu of a Certificate of Proficiency for SSO is exclusively accepted for Deck Officers, **other than the ship's SSO and alternate SSO and those falling within paragraphs 1.1 and 1.3 above, and serving on board Belize registered vessels**. The actual ship's SSO and his/her alternate must hold a valid Certificate of Proficiency under Regulation VI/5 of the STCW Convention 1978, as amended, and submit the same at the time of applying for a Belize COE.

For any questions, information or queries on these requirements please contact:

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