



## PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS

EMAIL: Ship\_registry@mtt.gov.bh WEBSITE: http://www.mtt.gov.bh

### Directive No. STCW/04

### ISSUE OF BAHRAINI FLAG STATE ENDORSEMENT

Issued under the enabling power of the Ministerial Resolution 6/2001  
and including STCW 2010 Manila Amendments

#### 1. General:

The International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers 1978 (STCW78) as amended requires all officers serving on a ship to have Flag State Endorsement in recognition of their national certificates unless their original certificate and national endorsements are issued in the Flag State.

In keeping with this international requirement, the Ports and Maritime Affairs (PMA) in Bahrain acting as the Maritime Administration of Bahrain shall issue endorsements to certificates of the officers issued in those countries whose certificates are recognised by the PMA for service on Bahrain registered ships. This means to say that in order to serve on a Bahraini ship the officer must have either a certificate issued in Bahrain with its national endorsement or Bahraini Flag State Endorsement (FSE) in recognition of a national certificate/ endorsement (issued in a country other than Bahrain) held by the officer.

The Undersecretary may conclude Memorandum of Understanding with maritime administration of those countries whose system of issuing certificates comply fully with IMO requirements and are also compatible to certificates issued in Bahrain. Until such formal recognition Memorandum of Understandings are made with



maritime administrations of other states issuing certificates under the STCW78 convention, certificates issued in the countries listed in the IMO-STCW white list (complying with IMO requirements) shall be recognised and accepted for issue of Bahraini FSE. Recognition endorsements may only be issued against national certificate/endorsement but not against another recognition endorsement.

## 2. Requirements:

In accordance with the STCW requirements, The PMA requires a FSE to be issued to the following persons serving onboard Bahraini ships in the capacities of:

- master,
- chief Mate,
- officer in charge of a navigational watch,
- chief engineer,
- second engineer officer,
- Officer in Charge of Engineering Watch,
- GMDSS Radio Operator,
- Electro-technical Officer and
- Officer with immediate responsibility serving on Tankers

No recognition endorsement shall be issued against a capacity not identified or referred to in the convention.

No certificate shall be recognised unless it has national certificate/endorsement in English with a clear reference to the Convention and the regulation under which the certificate is issued. It must also bear the name of the seafarer with his date of birth, the capacity for which issued, functions along with limitations, if any. It must also have a facial picture of the seafarer with his signature and the dates of issue and expiry of the certificate.



Under the Convention it is necessary to have additional training and experience for service on tankers and passenger ships. Evidence of such additional training may be endorsed on the main certificate of the officer or given as a separate paper document/ certificate. However, it is not appropriate for officers' certificates to contain any endorsement as "not valid for service on tankers or passenger ships".

Since Flag State Endorsement (FSE) is supposed to be a true reflection of national certificate, any reference to training for service on tankers or passenger ships in the officer's certificate shall be duly reflected on the FSE. However, separate paper certificate/ document/ endorsement in respect of training for service on tankers or passenger ships need not be shown in the Flag State Endorsement. This is because regulation 1/10 require officers' certificates to be endorsed in recognition. There is no need for recognition endorsement of certificates issued under regulations V and VI.

### 3. Responsibilities of Companies:

Companies managing Bahrain registered ships who want to employ officers with certificates issued abroad must apply for Bahrain FSE. If the company employs any separate crewing agent, it will be their internal business as the administration will hold them (the ISM Company) responsible for compliance of all national and international requirements.

It shall be responsibility of the company to check authenticity and validity of all documents before they forward the same to the PMA for issue a FSE. A responsible officer will have to certify to that effect. While forwarding applications for FSE for officers in the management level, the responsible officer of the company will have to certify that he has tested and ascertained that the relevant officer is familiar with Bahrain maritime laws, regulations and procedures.



The company shall also ensure that seafarers employed on the ship are medically fit and they undergo familiarization training with respect to the ship, its gears and equipment, and emergency measures.

**4. Application procedures for FSE:**

All applications for issue of FSE to deck officers must contain a certified copy of the GMDSS certificate in addition to deck officer's certificate showing radio-communications as one of the functions.

All applications for issue of FSE to officers qualified under regulation II/2 (chief mate and master) must also be accompanied by a certified copy of the "Proficiency in Medical Care" (PMC) certificate obtained within last 5 years. Where such certificate was obtained more than 5 years ago, there must be another certificate to testify that the officer has undertaken refresher training in PMC.

In addition to authentication by the Company, the PMA may also check authenticity of a certificate/ endorsement from the relevant issuing authority.

Officers shall be assumed to have done Basic training (BT), Advanced Fire-fighting (AFF) and Medical First-aid (MFA) and these documents need not be forwarded with the application for FSE. However, the PMA may, at its discretion, ask for these documents, if felt necessary. They must be produced when asked for.

Applications in prescribed forms for issue of Flag State Endorsement for officers with two passport size photographs of the relevant officer (must look alike the photograph appearing in the main certificate) must be forwarded with necessary fees (by bank draft or cheque) to the PMA through the local representative of the owners/ company. Even if the applications are sent directly from abroad, it must



contain the name and address of the local representative because when the FSE are prepared they will be forwarded to the local representative. Photocopies of certificates and documents duly attested by a responsible officer (as stated in the previous paragraph) shall be enclosed. The FSE issued by PMA shall be in the format of the specimen given in Code A-I/2.

Where it is not possible to issue FSE within a period of three working days, the PMA may issue Provisional FSE in the form of "Confirmation of Receipt of Application (CRA)" valid for no more than 3 months from the date of issue (in accordance with paragraph 5 of the regulation I/10) within which period necessary checking and formalities must be completed and formal FSE issued or application rejected. CRA may be issued by fax or e-mail.

Officers may be employed in a capacity for which the certificate is endorsed or a lower capacity. The FSE shall reflect the capacity for which the original certificate has been issued. The company may employ the officer in a lower capacity at their discretion. Under no circumstances an officer may be employed in a capacity higher than what he is certified for except where a "Dispensation" as provided for in Article VIII is granted by the Flag State. However, no dispensation shall be issued for the capacity of master, chief engineer and radio operator.

The original national certificate/ endorsement, FSE and Dispensation, if any, must be carried on board. For the convenience of Port State control such documents may be kept with the master or in a ship's file (though the certificates belong to the relevant seafarer) so that they can be produced even if the officer is not on board at the time of inspection.



**5. Enquires:**

Any query or question relating to a certificate or endorsement issued in Bahrain should be referred to the PMA, Bahrain for further information or clarification.

**6. Revision history:**

Revision No. 2 of the present Directive supersedes the Directive Number 4, which was published by the President of Customs and Ports on 24th October 2001.

**Hassan Ali Al Majed**

Undersecretary for Ports and Maritime Affairs

16<sup>th</sup> August 2016



## ANNEX – 1

## PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS

APPLICATION FOR  
**BAHRAINI FLAG STATE ENDORSEMENT**

This application must be filled in by a responsible officer of the company managing the ship or its appointed agent

Seafarer	Name			
	Date of birth	dd/mm/yyyy	Place of birth	
	Sex (M/F)		Nationality	

Certificate	Issuing State			
	Date of issue	dd/mm/yyyy	Date of expiry	dd/mm/yyyy
	STCW Regulation		Capacity	
	Limitations applying (if any)			

Ship	Name of Bahraini ship to which to be employed		
	Local representative in Bahrain	Name	
		address	

## Documents enclosed:

1. A copy of Certificate of Competency or Proficiency and Endorsement attesting the issue of a certificate that was issued in accordance with STCW requirements
2. A copy of GMDSS certificate for master and deck officers on GMDSS ships.
3. Copy of Certificate relating to tanker training, if any.
4. Evidence of sea service
5. A copy of a valid Medical Fitness Certificate
6. A clear copy of a valid National Passport (Seaman Record Book is not an acceptable form)
7. Two original passport size photographs (35 x 45 mm) and electronic copy in JPEG format of at least 75 dpi resolution.

I declare that I have checked the authenticity and validity of all enclosed certificates and documents. The documents are accordingly signed by me.

I also declare that the applicant being a candidate for regulation II/2 or III/2 endorsement, I have checked and found his knowledge and familiarity of Bahraini laws, rules and procedures to be satisfactory (~~delete this paragraph where not applicable~~).

Signature (responsible officer).....

Name & designation.....

Date.....

Stamp/ Seal



ANNEX - 2

**PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS**

**ENDORSEMENT ATTESTING THE RECOGNITION OF A CERTIFICATE  
 UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON  
 STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING  
 FOR SEAFARERS, 1978, AS AMENDED**

The Government of the **Kingdom of Bahrain** certifies that certificate No. .... issued to ..... by or on behalf of the Government of ..... is duly recognized in accordance with the provisions of regulation I/10 of the above Convention, as amended, and the lawful holder is authorized to perform the following functions, at the levels specified, subject to any limitations indicated until ..... or until the date of expiry of any extension of the validity of this endorsement as may be shown overleaf:

FUNCTION	LEVEL	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)

The lawful holder of this endorsement may serve in the following capacity or capacities specified in the applicable safe manning requirements of the Kingdom of Bahrain:

CAPACITY	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)

Endorsement No. .... issued on .....

(Official Seal)

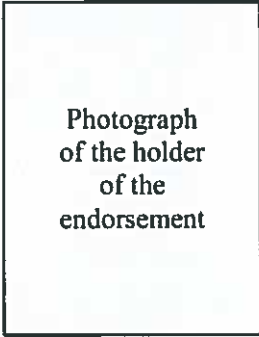
.....  
*Signature of duly authorized official*

.....  
*Name of duly authorized official*

The original of this endorsement must be kept available in accordance with regulation I/2, paragraph 11 of the Convention while its holder is serving on a ship.

Date of birth of the holder of the endorsement.....

Signature of the holder of the endorsement.....



Photograph  
 of the holder  
 of the  
 endorsement





The validity of this endorsement is hereby extended until.....

(Official Seal)

.....  
*Signature of duly authorized official*

.....  
*Name of duly authorized official*

Date of revalidation .....

The validity of this endorsement is hereby extended until.....

(Official Seal)

.....  
*Signature of duly authorized official*

.....  
*Name of duly authorized official*

Date of revalidation .....