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FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 091713.GEN

September 2013

Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and masters of Vanuatu-registered ships.

Re: SECURITY RELATED TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS UNDER THE 2010 MANILA AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS (STCW CONVENTION).

I. This Fleet letter applies to all vessels under the Vanuatu Flag

II. Requirements

1. This circular highlights key requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW convention pertaining to the security-related training for seafarers onboard a ship which is required to comply with the provisions of the International Ship and Port facility Security (ISPS) Code.

Minimum Requirements for Security-awareness Training

2. Seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship are required to complete a security-awareness training meeting the competence standards given in table A-VI/6-1 of Section A of the STCW Code. Seafarers who have completed such training shall hold a Certificate of Proficiency (COP).

Minimum Requirements for Seafarers with Designated Security Duties

3. A seafarer who is designated to perform security-related duties, such as anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery related activities, shall be appropriately trained and be competent to perform onboard security duties. The training shall meet the competence standards given in table A-VI/6-2 of Section A of the STCW Code. seafarers who have completed training shall hold a COP issued by the trainer.

Onboard Security-related Familiarization Training

4. All seafarers onboard a ship shall receive security-related familiarization training before being assigned to shipboard duties. The training shall include the reporting of security incident such as piracy or armed robbery, knowledge of procedures to follow when they recognize a security threat and participate in security related emergency and contingency procedural exercises. Such training shall be conducted by the Ship's Security Officer (SSO) or an equally qualified person and take into account the guidance given in STCW Code B, Section B-VI/6. Records of such familiarization training conducted shall be kept onboard under the ship's safety management system.

Seafarers who qualify under Transitional Provisions

5. Until 1 January 2014, any seafarer who started sea service prior to 1 Jan 2012 with at least 6 months of seagoing service in total as a ship crew during the preceding three years and has been briefed in security duties and participated in security-related emergency and contingency procedural exercises, would be considered as meeting the requirements of Section A- VI/6-5 or A-VI/6-9 of the STCW Code, without undertaking further training.

6. Company Security Officers (CSO) of shipping companies should make a list of the seafarers who comply with the transitional provisions (grandfather clause) in the STCW Convention by virtue of the 6 months seagoing service and forward them to VMSL via e-mail at email@vanuatuships.com. This list may be provided during when the seafarer applies for a new or renewal of Vanuatu Seafarer Documents.

Issuance of COP under Transitional Provisions

7. For seafarers who have undertaken security-related training before the 1 Jan 2012 or performed security-related functions could obtain a COP from any of the approved training providers by attending a bridging course or examination to achieve the required standard of competence set out in Table A-VI/6- 1 or A-VI/6-2 of the STCW Code. Approved training providers could issue (i) COP for Security Awareness (ii) COP for Seafarers with Designated Security Duties to seafarers who have been found competent in accordance with table A-VI/6-1 or A- VI/6-2 of the STCW Code respectively.

Recognition of COP from overseas

8. VMSL will recognize COP for Security Awareness Training and Seafarers with Designated Security Duties issued in accordance with the STCW Convention if they are issued by or under the authority of a maritime authority which is in the STCW "white" list. There is no need for any endorsement by VMSL to recognize such COP.

Requirements for Ship Security Officer (SSO)

9. There is no change to the requirement of a SSO. All ships must have at least one officer designated as the SSO. All SSO must comply with the requirements specified in Regulation VI/5 of the STCW Convention and shall hold a COP as SSO issued by or under the approval of a party to the STCW Convention whose certificates of competency are recognized by VMSL. There is no need for any endorsement by VMSL to recognize COP as SSO issued by or under the authority of a foreign maritime administration.

Approved Training Provider

10. VMSL will approve any Trainer whose course has been approved by any maritime authority which is on the STCW "white list."



Patrick Michael DeCharles II
by the direction of the
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs
The Republic of Vanuatu

