



Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers

URC25001 | 16 January 2025

Notice to: Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators/ Surveyors/ Auditors

This Circular is issued to advise that IMO Resolutions [MSC.540\(107\)](#) and [MSC.541\(107\)](#) entered into force on 01 January 2025. Both these Resolutions concern amendments to the International Convention and the Code on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).

Regulation I/1 of the STCW Convention – Definitions and clarifications

A new definition has been added:

- “**Original form** means a paper or an electronic form of any certificate required by the Convention, issued in the format approved by the Administration, provided that the minimum information, as required in paragraph 4 of section A-I/2 of the STCW Code, is readily available.”

Regulation I/2 of the STCW Convention – Certificates and Endorsements

Paragraph 11 has been replaced by:

- Subject to the provisions of regulation I/10, paragraph 5, any certificate required by the Convention must be kept available in its original form on board the ship on which the holder is serving. If an electronic form is used, the minimum required data must be accessible as defined by the Administration in accordance with the STCW Code, which is necessary to initiate a verification procedure.”

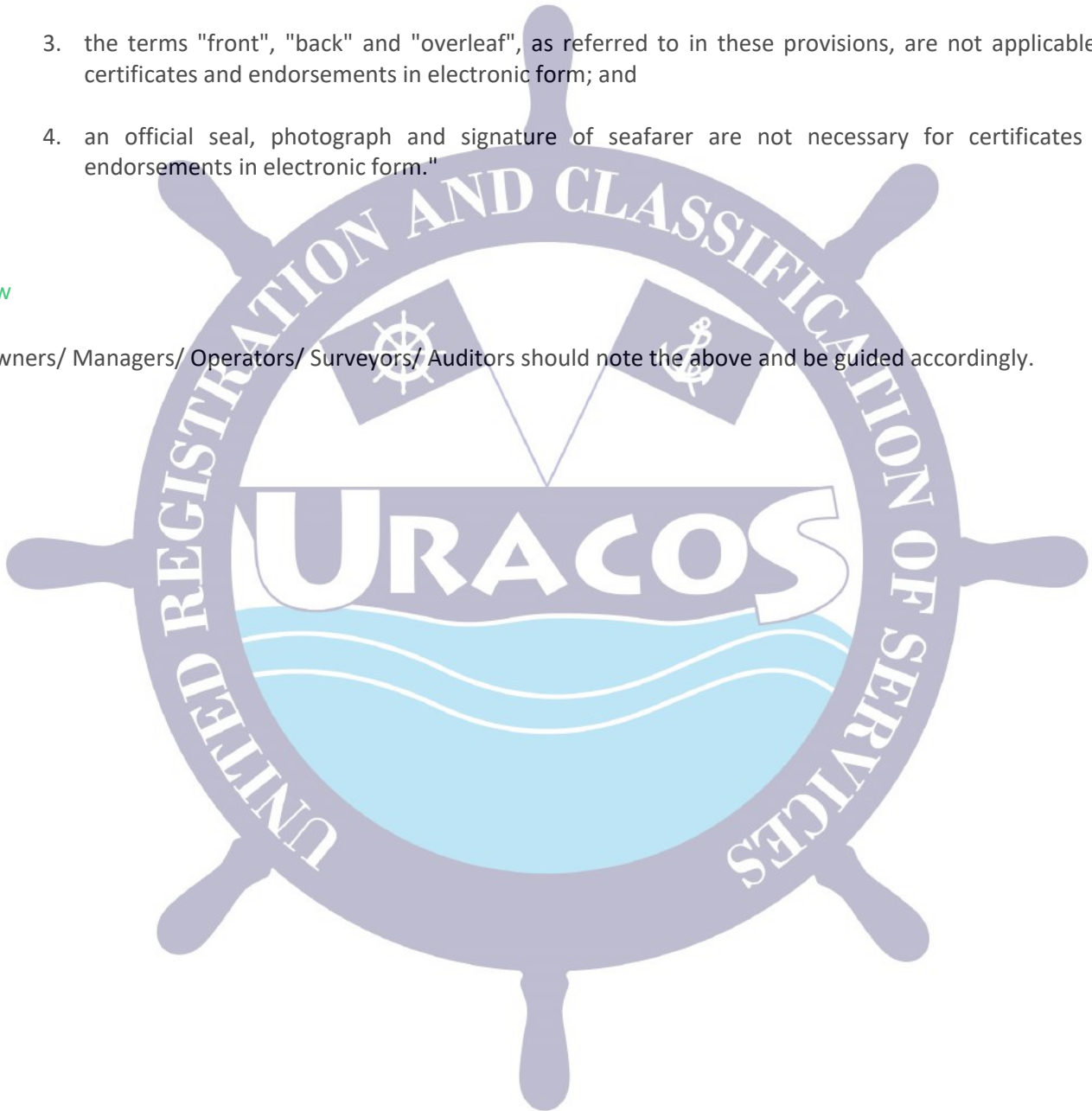
Section A-I/2 of the STCW Code – Certificates and endorsements

Paragraph 4 has been replaced by:

- In using formats which may be different from those set forth in this section, pursuant to regulation 1/2, paragraph 10, Parties shall ensure that in all cases:
 1. all information relating to the identity and personal description of the holder, including name, date of birth, photograph and signature, along with the date on which the document was issued, shall be displayed on the same side of the documents;
 2. all information relating to the capacity or capacities in which the holder is entitled to serve, in accordance with the applicable safe manning requirements of the Administration, as well as any limitations, shall be prominently displayed and easily identified;
 3. the terms "front", "back" and "overleaf", as referred to in these provisions, are not applicable for certificates and endorsements in electronic form; and
 4. an official seal, photograph and signature of seafarer are not necessary for certificates and endorsements in electronic form."

Act now

Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators/ Surveyors/ Auditors should note the above and be guided accordingly.



RESOLUTION MSC.540(107) (adopted on 8 June 2023)
AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978

RESOLUTION MSC.540(107)
(adopted on 8 June 2023)

**AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO article XII of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 ("the 1978 STCW Convention"), concerning the procedures for amending the 1978 STCW Convention,

RECOGNIZING the need for providing a timely response to the global digitalization trend, as well as a solution for the management and control of seafarers' certificates issued pursuant to the 1978 STCW Convention,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its 107th session, amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention proposed and circulated in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(i) thereof,

1 ADOPTS, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the 1978 STCW Convention, amendments to said Convention, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 DETERMINES, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(vii)(2) of the 1978 STCW Convention, that said amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2024, unless, prior to that date, more than one third of Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more have notified to the Secretary-General of the Organization that they object to the amendments;

3 INVITES Parties to note that, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the 1978 STCW Convention, the amendments annexed hereto shall enter into force on 1 January 2025 upon their acceptance, in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4 URGES Parties to implement the amendments to regulations I/1 and I/2 at an early stage;

5 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, for the purposes of article XII(1)(a)(v) of the 1978 STCW Convention, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex to all Parties to the 1978 STCW Convention;

6 ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its annex to Members of the Organization, which are not Parties to the 1978 STCW Convention.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978**

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Regulation I/1

Definitions and clarifications

1 In paragraph 1, the following new definition is added after existing sub-paragraph .44:

".45 *Original form* means a paper or an electronic form of any certificate required by the Convention, issued in the format approved by the Administration, provided that the minimum information, as required in paragraph 4 of section A-I/2 of the STCW Code, is readily available."

Regulation I/2

Certificates and endorsements

2 Paragraph 11 is replaced by the following:

"11 Subject to the provisions of regulation I/10, paragraph 5, any certificate required by the Convention must be kept available in its original form on board the ship on which the holder is serving. If an electronic form is used, the minimum required data must be accessible as defined by the Administration in accordance with the STCW Code, which is necessary to initiate a verification procedure."

RESOLUTION MSC.540(107) (adopted on 8 June 2023)
AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978

RESOLUTION MSC.541(107) (adopted on 8 June 2023)
AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND
WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE

RESOLUTION MSC.541(107)
(adopted on 8 June 2023)

**AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING,
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO article XII and regulation I/1.2.3 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 ("the 1978 STCW Convention"), concerning the procedures for amending part A of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code ("the STCW Code"),

RECOGNIZING the need for providing a timely response to the global digitalization trend, as well as a solution for the management and control of seafarers' certificates issued pursuant to the 1978 STCW Convention,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its 107th session, amendments to part A of the STCW Code, proposed and circulated in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(i) of the 1978 STCW Convention,

1 ADOPTS, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the 1978 STCW Convention, amendments to the STCW Code, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 DETERMINES, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(vii)(2) of the 1978 STCW Convention, that said amendments to the STCW Code shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2024, unless, prior to that date, more than one third of Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more have notified to the Secretary-General of the Organization that they object to the amendments;

3 INVITES Parties to note that, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the 1978 STCW Convention, the amendments to the STCW Code annexed hereto shall enter into force on 1 January 2025 upon their acceptance, in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4 URGES Parties to implement the amendments to section A-I/2 of the STCW Code at an early stage;

5 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, for the purposes of article XII(1)(a)(v) of the 1978 STCW Convention, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex to all Parties to the 1978 STCW Convention;

6 ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its annex to Members of the Organization, which are not Parties to the 1978 STCW Convention.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING,
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE**

**CHAPTER I
STANDARDS REGARDING GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Section A-I/2

Certificates and endorsements

1 Paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

"4 In using formats which may be different from those set forth in this section, pursuant to regulation I/2, paragraph 10, Parties shall ensure that in all cases:

- .1 all information relating to the identity and personal description of the holder, including name, date of birth, photograph and signature, along with the date on which the document was issued, shall be displayed on the same side of the documents;
- .2 all information relating to the capacity or capacities in which the holder is entitled to serve, in accordance with the applicable safe manning requirements of the Administration, as well as any limitations, shall be prominently displayed and easily identified;
- .3 the terms "front", "back" and "overleaf", as referred to in these provisions, are not applicable for certificates and endorsements in electronic form; and
- .4 an official seal, photograph and signature of seafarer are not necessary for certificates and endorsements in electronic form."

RESOLUTION MSC.541(107) (adopted on 8 June 2023)
AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND
WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE