



Venezuelan Register Of Shipping Ltd.

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Circular Letter 003/2017

Date: 26.04.2017

Attn.: VRS Authorized Surveyors, Shipowners, Ship operator, Managing Companies, Masters

Subject: MSC.1/Circ.1560 Seafarers Certificates and Endorsements meeting the requirements of 2010 Manila Amendments to STCW Convention and Code

1. General

The STCW Convention was amended in 2010. As a result it establishes new grades. The aims of this revision are to ensure that STCW standards remain relevant, to improve the standards of professionalism of seafarers and to improve navigational safety, security and protection of marine environment.

The newly established grades are as follows:

- "Able Seafarer Deck" (STCW Reg. II/5),
- "Able Seafarer Engine" (STCW Reg. III/5)
- "Electro-Technical Officer" (STCW Reg. III/6), and
- "Electro-Technical Rating" (STCW Reg. III/7),

IMO Maritime Safety Committee has issued MSC.1/Circ. 1560 concerning the implementation of the STCW Convention. IMO Maritime Safety Committee agreed that, in cases where a seafarer's documentation complies with the requirements in force immediately before 1st January 2017, but is not in accordance with the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, port State control authorities, until 1st July 2017, are recommended to take a pragmatic and practical approach during inspections and to notify the ships, seafarers and Administrations concerned accordingly.

2. Information to Recognized Organizations (ROs) regarding the Implementation of the STCW Convention

In accordance with MSC.1/Circ. 1560, Venezuelan Register of Shipping Ltd, as RO issuing ISM Code certificates under SOLAS 74 that, until 1st July 2017, when assessing compliance with the provisions of the ISM Code, if a seafarer's documentation is not in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, the Shipowner, ship operator and managing company will be immediately informed to change the crew member. The Flag State Administration will be informed accordingly.

Kindly be guided accordingly.

Yours faithfully.

Kristina Melikyan
Chief Executive Officer
Venezuelan Register of Shipping Ltd

