

To whom it may concern,

Subject: STCW-2010 Refresher courses for Belgian Certificates of Competence STCW or Certificates of Proficiency

According to the STCW-Convention in combination with the ISM-Code a continued proficiency is required for certain functions and responsibilities on board as a seafarer. Refresher training is therefore required at five year intervals.

The Belgian maritime authority wants to draw the attention of the seafarers, shipping managers and ship owners to the fact that only certificates from refresher courses enumerated hereunder will be accepted for the revalidation of Certificates of Competence issued by Belgium:

- Certificates from refresher courses accredited by the Belgian authorities, the Netherlands or Luxembourg;
- Certificates of Proficiency issued by the authorities of any other EU-Member State;

The validity of a Certificate of Competence (or Certificate of Proficiency for the lower ranks) cannot extend beyond 31 December 2016 for every seafarer who has not followed the required refresher courses.

We advise to take immediate measures to ensure that everyone involved will follow the refresher courses and then apply for a revalidation at the Belgian maritime inspectorate.

Individual seafarers (without a link to a Belgian employer) can apply via letter or via e-mail:

stcw95@mobilif.gov.be

Which refresher courses are compulsory?

- **Personal Survival Techniques (VI/1-1)**
- **Elementary Fire Fighting (VI/1-2)**, for officers: **Advanced Fire Fighting (VI/3)**
- **Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (other than fast rescue boats) (VI/2-1)**
- **Fast Rescue Boats** (for holders of a CoP FRB issued before 01.01.2012) **(VI/2-2)**
- **Medical Care** (for masters, chief mates and every person to whom the responsibility for medical care was trusted) **(VI/4-2)**.

ing. Stefan Himpens, Task group leader Seafarer's Certification Branch Antwerp