



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 617 of 9th March 2020

To	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag	All Flags
Title	STCW-Auditor Guidelines
Reference	CONARINA - Instructions

The STCW Code

The regulations contained in the Convention are supported by Part A and B in the STCW Code. The Convention contains basic requirements which are then explained in the Code.

Part A of the Code is mandatory. The minimum standards of competence required for seagoing personnel are given in detail in a series of tables. Chapter II of the Code, for example, deals with standards regarding the master and deck department.

Part B of the Code contains recommended guidance which is intended to help member states implement the Convention. The measures suggested are not mandatory and the examples given are only intended to illustrate how certain Convention requirements may be complied with.

However, the recommendations in general represent an approach that has been harmonized by discussions within IMO and consultation with other international organizations.

A. Requirements

1. The STCW Convention refer to the following certifications:

- Certificate of competence:
- Certificate of proficiency:
- Documentary evidence:
- Endorsements

2. STCW certificates

The term 'certificates' covers all official documents required under STCW. It includes certificates of competence, endorsements, certificates of proficiency, and any documentary evidence showing that a requirement of the convention has been met.

- **Certificate of competence:**

This document is issued to masters, officers, radio operators and ratings forming part of a watch who meet the standards of competence relevant to their particular functions and level of

*Customer Service Center
5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9th. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
E-Mail:*

joel@conarinagroup.com

*Technical Head Office
7111 Dekadine Ct.
Spring, Tx., 77379
Tel: 1 (832) 451 0185,
1 (713) 204 6380*

E-Mail: valbozen@hotmail.com

responsibility on-board. The table below indicates the title of the certificates under STCW and the various limitations and tonnage thresholds that apply.

Table 1, Indicates the title of the certificates under STCW and the various limitations and tonnage thresholds that apply for deck crew

CAPACITY	AREA LIMITATION	TONNAGE LIMITATION
Master	Near Coastal	Less than 500 GT
	None	Less than 3,000 GT
	None	None
Chief Mate	None	Less than 3,000 GT
	None	None
Officer in charge of navigational watch (OOW)	Near coastal	Less than 500 GT
	None	None
Rating forming part of a navigational watch	None	None
Radio operator	GMDSS (GOC/ROC)	None

Table 2, Indicates the title of the certificates under STCW and the various limitations and propulsion power thresholds that apply for engine crew

CAPACITY	AREA LIMITATION	PROPULSION POWER LIMITATION
Chief engineer	None	750 Kw to 3,000 Kw
	None	3,000 Kw or more
	Near Coastal	750 Kw to 3,000 Kw
	Near Coastal	3,000 Kw or more
Second engineer	None	750 Kw to 3,000 Kw
	None	3,000 Kw or more
	Near Coastal	750 Kw to 3,000 Kw
	Near Coastal	3,000 Kw or more
Officer in charge of engineering watch (OOW)	None	3,000 Kw or more
	Near Coastal	Less than 3,000 Kw
Rating forming part of an engineering watch	None	None

- **Endorsement:**

A document issued to masters and officers, either as part of the certificate or as a separate document. This attests (endorses) that the national certificate has been issued in accordance with all STCW requirements.

- **Endorsement of recognition:**

This endorsement certificate is issued by an administration as an official recognition of the validity of a certificate issued by another administration.

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- **Certificates of proficiency:**

A certificate, other than a certificate of competency issued to a seafarer, stating that the relevant requirements of training, competencies or seagoing service in the convention have been met. These documents are issued to certify that the seafarer has met the required standard of competence in a specific duty.

- **Documentary evidence:**

Documentation, other than a certification of competency or certificate of proficiency used to establish that the relevant requirements of the convention have been met. These documents are not necessarily issued or recognized by the administration (and is not, therefore, called a certificate).

REFERENCES:

- CONARINA – Instructions- Courtesy of ABS.
- ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,

Val Bozenovici
Naval Architect – Conarina Technical Director

*Customer Service Center
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