





Merchant Shipping Directorate



# Revised format of Certificates issued in terms of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, as amended (STCW Convention)

**Merchant Shipping Notice 135** 

Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters, Owners' representatives and recognised organizations

The Merchant Shipping Directorate would like to inform all concerned that with effect from 2 May 2017, a new format for all certificates issued in terms of the STCW Convention issued by the Republic of Malta will be introduced.

In order to fully implement the revised requirements for certificates in accordance to the 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention, the Directorate will be introducing a new format for all certificates. Details of the new format and transitional arrangements affecting the validity of existing certificates are provided below.

#### **New Format of Certificates**

The new certificates are printed on plastic card ID-1 format making them more resistant to the rigours of repeated use whilst incorporating a number of modern security features to minimise the possibility of falsification. The cards feature a UV-dull glossy surface on which the seafarer's personal and certificate details are printed in a full colour 600dpi high resolution print that allows superior forensics.

Features making the cards more secure include the cardholder's name in repeated microtext on two areas of the card, photo and signature in UV-sensitive ink and also the cardholder's name in UV-sensitive microtext. These components are exclusive to and change with each unique card according to the cardholder details.

Other security elements include UV-sensitive data and designs on both sides of the card (including the Maltese Cross) and a UV-sensitive guilloche with microtext on the card back. Moreover, both card sides are covered by a secure holographic layer.

Samples of the certificates, which also include security features, are being annexed to this Notice.

#### **Transitional Arrangements for Existing Certificates**

Seafarers in posession of any of the new certificates are deemed to have met all the requirements of the STCW Convention, as amended.

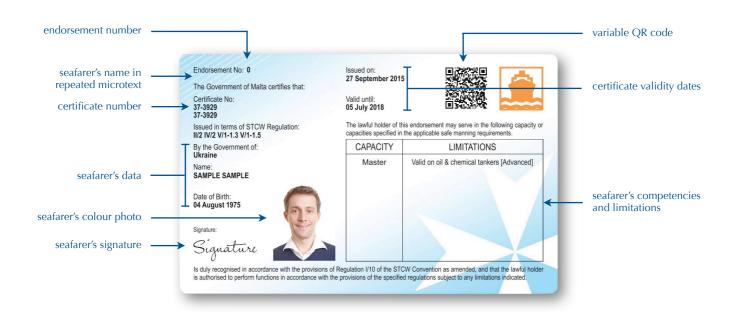
All existing certificates are also deemed to be in full compliance to the STCW Convention, as amended and remain valid until their expiry date.

All enquiries related to certificates issued in terms of the STCW Convention, should be addressed to this Directorate on <a href="mailto:stcw.tm@transport.gov.mt">stcw.tm@transport.gov.mt</a>



#### CONFIDENTIAL

Visible print







### **CONFIDENTIAL**

## Features visible under UV light







#### CONFIDENTIAL

Holographic layer







Seafarer Certification Unit

#### CONFIDENTIAL

### Card variants



















