



**PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS**

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**Directive No. STCW/05**

**ISSUE OF BAHRANI NATIONAL CERTIFICATES AND ENDORSEMENTS  
FOR MASTER AND OFFICER UNDER STCW CHAPTER II AND III**

Issued under the enabling power of the Ministerial Resolution 6/2001  
and including STCW 2010 Manila Amendments

**1. General**

The Bahrain Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification, Manning and Watch-keeping) Regulations 6/2001 require that all seafarers trained under the STCW Chapter II and III are required to be duly certified.

The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended (STCW), requires that a contracting party verifies the competence of seafarers who holds certificates issued by that party.

This Directive gives guidance on the Ports and Maritime Affairs (PMA) process for the assessment of candidates for a Bahraini Certificates of Competency and Endorsements which the PMA will issue to seafarers who satisfy the STCW Chapters II and III requirements.

This Directive should be read in conjunction with IMO Assembly Resolution A.891 (21) title "Recommendations on training of personnel on mobile offshore units (MOUs)", IMO Assembly Resolution 1047 (27) title "Principles of minimum safe manning" and any subsequent Directive or international guidelines relating to manning, seafarers or training.



## 2. Application

This Directive applies to:

- seafarers serving or intending to serve as Officers onboard Bahrain registered ship and Companies providing affected seafarers to Bahraini ships.
- Bahraini nationals who have satisfactorily completed training and assessment at an approved maritime institution.

## 3. Requirement for issue of Certificate

In summary, the Candidates for certification shall provide satisfactory proof:

- of their identity;
- that their age is not less than 18 years;
- that they meet the standards of medical fitness specified in section A-1/9 of the STCW Code;
- of having completed the seagoing service and any related compulsory training required for the certificate applied for; and
- that they meet the standards of competence for the capacities, functions and levels that are to be identified in the endorsement to the certificate.

Only the training institutes authorised by PMA may conduct training covering the syllabuses contained in the part A of STCW Code assess the competence of the candidates and issue certificates (for the specific course) to those who meet the required standards on behalf of the PMA.

Until formal Memorandum of Understanding with reputable training institutes are concluded, the institute that is approved for similar purpose by a state in the IMO-STCW white list (complying with IMO requirements) may be accepted by PMA.



**4. Certification as Officer in charge of a Navigational Watch (OOW) under STCW regulation II/1:**

The PMA may issue a Certificate of Competency (CoC) and Endorsement provided the candidate can produce the required evidence of:

- proof of Identity and nationality;
- be not less than 18 years of age;
- Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;
- **Sea Service:**

Either at least 12 months sea-service under an approved cadetship training programme (with a record book) of which at least 6 months having been spent on the bridge, on duties associated with navigational watch-keeping, under the supervision of a certificated deck officer;

Or evidence of 36 months sea-service in the deck department (with an ISF training record book or similar book issued by the Company) of which, the last one year shall be after obtaining a Navigational watch-rating certificate;
- **Training in the following courses:**
  1. STCW A-VI/1 :Basic Training
  2. STCW A-VI/2 :Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boat, other than Fast Rescue Boat
  3. STCW A-VI/3 :Advanced Fire-fighting
  4. STCW A-VI/4 :Medical First-Aid
  5. STCW A-VI/6-4:Security Awareness certificate and
  6. STCW A-IV/2 :GMDSS-General Operator Certificate of Competency (as applicable).



- Certificate (Documentary Evidence) from an approved and authorized training centre of having successfully completed a course of study equating to Code A-II/1 and meeting the required standards.

**5. Certification as Chief Mate (unrestricted) under STCW regulation II/2:**

The PMA may issue a CoC and Endorsement provided the candidate can produce the required evidence of:

- proof of identity, age and nationality;
- copy of Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;
- copy of Certificate of Competency (CoC) as Navigational Watch-keeping Officer's (regulation II/1);
- **Sea Service:**  
evidence of having performed at least 12 months sea-service since obtaining a STCW II/1 certificate;
- **Training in the following courses:**
  1. STCW A-VI/1 :Basic Training
  2. STCW A-VI/2 :Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boat, other than Fast Rescue Boat
  3. STCW A-VI/3 : Advanced Fire-fighting
  4. STCW A-VI/4 : Medical First-Aid
  5. STCW A-VI/4-2: Proficiency in Medical Care (PMC)
  6. STCW A-VI/6-4: Security Awareness certificate and
  7. STCW A-IV/2 : GMDSS-General Operator Certificate of Competency (as applicable).
- a certificate from an approved and authorized institute/ training centre of having successfully completed a course of study equating to Code A-II/2 and



having met the required standards. The certificate should make a reference to all training being completed at **management functional level**.

**6. Certification as Master (unrestricted) under STCW regulation II/2:**

The PMA may issue a CoC and Endorsement provided the candidate can produce the required evidence of:

- proof of identity, age and nationality;
- copy of Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;
- copy of Chief Mate's (unrestricted) Certificate under regulation II/2;
- **Sea Service:**  
Evidence of at least 36 months sea-service since obtaining STCW II/1 certificate, of which at least 12 months should be since obtaining STCW II/2 certificate for the capacity of chief mate. (Reduction of sea-service may be considered by the PMA at its own discretion where the seafarer has served at least 12 months as chief mate).
- **Training in the following courses:**
  1. STCW A-VI/1 :Basic Training
  2. STCW A-VI/2 :Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boat, other than Fast Rescue Boat
  3. STCW A-VI/3 : Advanced Fire-fighting
  4. STCW A-VI/4 : Medical First-Aid
  5. STCW A-VI/4-2: Proficiency in Medical Care (PMC)
  6. STCW A-VI/6-4: Security Awareness certificate and
  7. STCW A-IV/2 : GMDSS-General Operator Certificate of Competency (as applicable).



**7. Certification as Officer in Charge of Navigational Watch on ships of less than 500 GT on near-coastal voyages under STCW regulation II/3:**

The PMA may issue a CoC and Endorsement provided the candidate can produce the required evidence of:

- Proof of identity, age and nationality;
- copy of Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;
- **Sea Service:**  
evidence of special training with 12 months sea-service or 36 months sea-service in the deck department, as applicable;
- **Training in the following courses:**
  1. STCW A-VI/1 :Basic Training
  2. STCW A-VI/2 :Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boat, other than Fast Rescue Boat
  3. STCW A-VI/3 : Advanced Fire-fighting
  4. STCW A-VI/4 : Medical First-Aid
  5. STCW A-VI/6-4: Security Awareness certificate and
  6. STCW A-IV/2: GMDSS-General Operator Certificate of Competency (as applicable).
- Certificate from an approved and authorized training centre of having successfully completed a course of study equating to STCW A-II/3 and having met the required standards. The certificate should make reference to having obtained competence at an **operational functional level**.



**8. Certification as Master of ships of less than 500 GT on Near-coastal voyages under STCW regulation II/3:**

The PMA may issue a CoC and Endorsement provided the candidate can produce the required evidence of:

- Proof of identity, age and nationality;
- copy of Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;
- A valid CoC as Officer in Charge of Navigational watch on ships of less than 500 GT on Near-coastal voyages under regulation II/3
- **Sea Service:**  
At least 12 months sea-service since obtaining such certificate.
- **Training in the following courses:**
  1. STCW A-VI/1 :Basic Training
  2. STCW A-VI/2 :Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boat, other than Fast Rescue Boat
  3. STCW A-VI/3 : Advanced Fire-fighting
  4. STCW A-VI/4 : Medical First-Aid
  5. STCW A-VI/6-4: Security Awareness certificate and
  6. STCW A-IV/2 : GMDSS-General Operator Certificate of Competency (as applicable).
- Evidence of knowledge and ability to carry out all the duties of such a master.



**9. Certification as Chief Mate and Master on ships between 500 GT and 3000 GT and as Master on ships under 500 GT on unrestricted voyages – II/3**

In general, the seafarer will have to meet the same requirements for certification under STCW regulation II/2 but restrictions and limitations may be endorsed for lack of experience on large ships or lack of experience in sailing beyond Near-coastal area.

**10. Certification as Officer in charge of an Engineering Watch under STCW regulation III/1:**

All applicants shall have satisfactorily completed and provide documentary evidence of the following:

- proof of identity, age and nationality;
- copy of Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;
- have completed an approved course of education and training (including workshop training, sea-service and education leading to examination) of at least 36 months that shall include:
  1. Workshop training (normally 18 months but minimum 6 months, dependent upon entry qualification / background);
  2. Basic training (STCW A-VI/1);
  3. At least 12 months sea-service of which at least 6 months with Training Book Record as Cadet Engineer/ Apprentice Engineer/ Assistant Engineer;
  4. Successful completion of a course equating to STCW A-III/1 and having met the required standards;
- Evidence of having successfully completed and obtained relevant certificates in Proficiency in:
  1. STCW A-VI/2 : Survival Craft & Rescue boat (PSC & RB),





2. STCW A-VI/3 : Advanced Fire-fighting (AFF) and
3. STCW A-VI/4 : Medical First-Aid (MFA).

**11. Certification as Second Engineer Officer (unrestricted) under STCW regulation III/2:**

All applicants shall have satisfactorily completed and provide documentary evidence of the following:

- proof of identity and nationality;
- copy of Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;
- copy of approved Certificate of Competency as an Officer in charge of an Engineering Watch (Watch-keeping Engineer Officer's) under STCW III/1;
- performed at least at least 12 months sea-service as an Engineer Officer or Assistant Engineer Officer after obtaining a regulation III/1 certificate;
- Certificate from an approved and authorized institute/ training centre of having successfully completed a course of study equating to Code A-III/2 and meeting the required standards.

**12. Certification as Chief Engineer Officer (unrestricted) under STCW regulation III/2:**

All applicants shall have satisfactorily completed and provide documentary evidence of the following:

- proof of identity and nationality;
- copy of Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;



- copy of approved Certificate of Competency as a Second Engineer Officer's (unrestricted) certificate under regulation III/2;
- Evidence of having performed at least 36 months sea-service since obtaining STCW III/1 certificate of which at least 12 months must be after obtaining a Second Engineer's certificate under regulation III/2; and have served as Second Engineer or as Watch-keeping Engineer Officer for a minimum period of 12 months.

**13. Certification as Second Engineer of ships not exceeding 3000 kW in propulsion power under STCW regulation III/3:**

All applicants shall have satisfactorily completed and provide documentary evidence of the following:

- proof of identity and nationality;
- copy of Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;
- copy of approved Certificate of Competency as an Officer in charge of an Engineering Watch (Watch-keeping Engineer Officer's) under STCW III/1;
- performed at least 12 months sea-service as a Watch-keeping Engineer or Assistant Engineer;
- Successfully completed a course of study equivalent to Code A-III/3 and met the required standards.



**14. Certification as Chief Engineer Officer of ships not exceeding 3000kW in propulsion power under regulation III/3:**

All applicants shall have satisfactorily completed and provide documentary evidence of the following:

- proof of identity and nationality;
- copy of Seafarers Medical Fitness Certificate;
- evidence of having obtained a Second Engineer Officer's certificate under STCW regulation III/3;
- Evidence of having performed at least 36 months sea-service since obtaining Watch-keeping Engineer Officer's certificate under regulation III/1 of which at least 12 months after obtaining Second Engineer Officer's certificate under regulation III/3, shall have served as Second Engineer or Watch-keeping Engineer Officer for at least 12 months.

**15. Certification as Electro-technical Officer under STCW Regulation III/6:**

All applicants shall have satisfactorily completed and provide documentary evidence of the following:

- Proof of identity and nationality;
- Certificate of Seafarer's Medical Fitness;
- Degree or Diploma in Electro-technology or Electrical and Electronic engineering or equivalent;
- Evidence of having worked in a marine or electrical workshop or electrical section of a shipyard for at least 6 months if holding a degree or 12 months if holding a diploma;



- Certificate in Basic Training (Code A-VI/1);
- Evidence of at least 9 months sea-service in the engine department;
- Evidence of having met the standard specified in STCW Code A-III/6.

**16. Steam or Gas-turbine endorsement:**

The certification for engineer officers (STCW regulations III/1, III/2 and III/3) is applicable only for motor ships. In order to have the certificate endorsed for "steam" or "gas-turbine" the holder will have to successfully complete an approved course and serve on a ship with the relevant type of machinery for at least 3 months, for familiarisation purposes.

**17. Assessment of qualification & experience for persons with a naval background (as equivalent, under STCW Article IX):**

Bahraini nationals with a service background in the Royal Bahraini Defence Force (Navy) will have to submit their applications with full details of their qualification and experience, including a certified summary of sea-service performed on naval vessels.

The PMA will evaluate each application on its merit and advise the applicant about any further training or courses they may have to undertake before they can be issued with a "Certificate of Competency" for a particular capacity. For all deck officers a minimum period of 3 months familiarisation service on a merchant ship and for engineer officers a minimum of one month familiarisation service on a merchant ship will be required.

**18. Fast track certification scheme for graduate engineers:**

Bahraini nationals who have obtained a University degree in Marine Engineering & Naval Architecture from a reputable university may apply for a Watch-keeping Engineer Officer's certificate, with evidence of having performed at least 6 months familiarisation sea-service on merchant ships of more than 3000 kW propulsion power as an Assistant Engineer/ Supernumerary Engineer or at least 9 months service on a naval ship with more than 3000 kW propulsion power. A period of workshop/ shipyard service for familiarisation with tools and equipment and training under regulation VI as required may be necessary prior to joining a ship.

Persons with a degree in mechanical engineering or power engineering may also apply, in which case there may be a need for some workshop training and a longer period of shipboard service. Such candidates will also have to meet the requirements of STCW chapter VI as applicable, for certification under STCW III/1. The PMA will assess each case on its merit and may issue a Watch-keeping Engineer Officer's certificate at its own discretion.

Further progression (after W/k certification under regulation III/1) will be through the usual procedure as outlined earlier.

**19. Bahraini nationals undertaking maritime training in the USA and Canada -**

Candidates should bear in mind that the United States and the Canadian authorities do not grant their national certificates to non-nationals. Bahraini nationals will eventually have to seek Bahraini certificates. For this reason it is strongly recommended that prospective seafarers must study this document and make sure that they meet the requirements outlined in the document. They




should also produce a copy of this document to the training centre or institute in advance of undertaking a course of maritime training for their guidance.

To avoid any complications, it is strongly recommended that seafarers undertake training at a centre duly approved by the USCG or Transport Canada. Candidates shall also present themselves at an examination centre of the USCG or Transport Canada and obtain a letter of having met the standards required, for issue of a similar certificate in the USA/ Canada.

However, those having completed part of their training in the Bahrain may forward to the PMA (instead of presenting themselves to the USCG or Transport Canada centres) evidence of all training and service. We acknowledge that other administrations may or may not recognise or accept Bahrain approved training.

**20. Revision history:**

Revision No. 2 of the present Directive supersedes the Directive Number 5, which was published by the President of Customs and Ports on 24th October 2001.



**Hassan Ali Al Majed**

Undersecretary for Ports and Maritime Affairs

16<sup>th</sup> August 2016



ANNEX – 1

**PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS**

**APPLICATION FORM FOR  
BAHRAINI CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY**

<b>Seafarer Name</b>			
<b>Date of birth</b>	dd/mm/yyyy	<b>Place of birth</b>	
<b>Sex (M/F)</b>		<b>Nationality</b>	
<b>Capacity of Certificate required</b>			

Provide details in relation to this Guidance Note as to how you meet the requirements for issue of a Bahraini Certificate of Competency, for which you are applying and enclose copies of the relevant documents:-

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

The applicant should submit copies of relevant certificates/ documents and give statements/ explanation in support of the application where necessary. Make only short cross-reference to the relevant documents on this form.

Have you enclosed two passport size photographs (please ensure that they can be compared with photographs appearing on other documents submitted in support of your application).

Have you enclosed payment or proof of payment.....

Signature of the applicant.....Date.....



ANNEX – 2

PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS

CERTIFICATE ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND  
WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978, AS AMENDED

The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain certifies that.....  
has been found duly qualified in accordance with the provisions of regulation ..... of the  
above Convention, as amended, and has been found competent to perform the following  
functions, at the levels specified, subject to any limitations indicated until .....  
or until the date of expiry of any extension of the validity of this certificate as may be shown  
overleaf:

FUNCTION	LEVEL	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)

The lawful holder of this certificate may serve in the following capacity or capacities specified  
in the applicable safe manning requirements of the Kingdom of Bahrain:

CAPACITY	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)

Certificate No. .... issued on .....

(Official Seal)

.....  
Signature of duly authorized official

.....  
Name of duly authorized official

The original of this certificate must be kept available in accordance with  
regulation I/2, paragraph 11 of the Convention while its holder is serving  
on a ship.

Date of birth of the holder of the certificate.....

Signature of the holder of the certificate.....

Photograph  
35 x 45 mm





The validity of this certificate is hereby extended until.....

(Official Seal)

.....  
*Signature of duly authorized official*

.....  
*Name of duly authorized official*

Date of revalidation .....

The validity of this certificate is hereby extended until.....

(Official Seal)

.....  
*Signature of duly authorized official*

.....  
*Name of duly authorized official*

Date of revalidation .....



ANNEX – 3

PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS

**ENDORSEMENT ATTESTING THE ISSUE OF A CERTIFICATE UNDER  
THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS  
OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978,  
AS AMENDED**

The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain certifies that certificate No. .... has been issued to ..... who has been found duly qualified in accordance with the provisions of regulation ..... of the above Convention, as amended, and has been found competent to perform the following functions, at the levels specified, subject to any limitations indicated until ..... or until the date of expiry of any extension of the validity of this endorsement as may be shown overleaf:

FUNCTION	LEVEL	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)

The lawful holder of this endorsement may serve in the following capacity or capacities specified in the applicable safe manning requirements of the Kingdom of Bahrain:

CAPACITY	LIMITATIONS APPLYING (IF ANY)

Endorsement No. .... issued on .....

(Official Seal)

.....  
*Signature of duly authorized official*

.....  
*Name of duly authorized official*

The original of this endorsement must be kept available in accordance with regulation I/2, paragraph 11 of the Convention while its holder is serving on a ship.

Date of birth of the holder of the endorsement.....

Signature of the holder of the endorsement.....

Photograph  
of the holder  
of the endorsement



The validity of this endorsement is hereby extended until.....	
(Official Seal)	.....
	Signature of duly authorized official
	.....
	Name of duly authorized official
Date of revalidation .....	
The validity of this endorsement is hereby extended until.....	
(Official Seal)	.....
	Signature of duly authorized official
	.....
	Name of duly authorized official
Date of revalidation .....	



ANNEX – 4

**Table of Training Components**

	Master	Chief Mate	OOW (Nav.)	Chief Engr.	Second Engr.	OOW (Engr.)	Nav. W/Rating	E/R W/Rating	Able Seaman	Ship's Cook
Familiarisation <sup>1</sup>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Basic Training	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CPSC & RB	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
AFF	X	X	X	X	X	X				
MFA	X	X	X	X	X	X				
PMC	X	X								
Radar / ARPA ECDIS & BTW	X	X	X							
GMDSS	X	X	X							
Nav OOW- II/1			X							
Chief Mate & Master- II/2	X	X								
W/K Eng Officer-III/1						X				
Second Engineer-III/2				X	X					
Nav Watch Rating-II/4							X		X	
E/R Watch Rating-III/4								X		
Others									EDH <sup>2</sup>	C&H Cert. <sup>3</sup>

1 Familiarization training is given on board immediately on joining the ship

2 EDH is the qualification examination for AB certification

3 Cooking & Hygiene Certificate

PMC = Proficiency in Medical Care