

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION,

DESIRING to promote safety of life and property at sea and the protection of the marine environment by establishing in common agreement international standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers,

CONSIDERING that this end may best be achieved by the conclusion of an International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article I

General obligations under the Convention

- (1) The Parties undertake to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and the annex thereto, which shall constitute an integral part of the Convention. Every reference to the Convention constitutes at the same time a reference to the annex.
- (2) The Parties undertake to promulgate all laws, decrees, orders and regulations and to take all other steps which may be necessary to give the Convention full and complete effect, so as to ensure that, from the point of view of safety of life and property at sea and the protection of the marine environment, seafarers on board ships are qualified and fit for their duties.

Article II

Definitions

For the purpose of the Convention, unless expressly provided otherwise:

- (a) *Party* means a State for which the Convention has entered into force;
- (b) *Administration* means the Government of the Party whose flag the ship is entitled to fly;
- (c) *Certificate* means a valid document, by whatever name it may be known, issued by or under the authority of the Administration or recognized by

the Administration authorizing the holder to serve as stated in this document or as authorized by national regulations;

- (d) *Certificated* means properly holding a certificate;
- (e) *Organization* means the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO);*
- (f) *Secretary-General* means the Secretary-General of the Organization;
- (g) *Seagoing ship* means a ship other than those which navigate exclusively in inland waters or in waters within, or closely adjacent to, sheltered waters or areas where port regulations apply;
- (h) *Fishing vessel* means a vessel used for catching fish, whales, seals, walrus or other living resources of the sea;
- (i) *Radio Regulations* means the Radio Regulations annexed to, or regarded as being annexed to, the most recent International Telecommunication Convention which may be in force at any time.

Article III

Application

The Convention shall apply to seafarers serving on board seagoing ships entitled to fly the flag of a Party except to those serving on board:

- (a) warships, naval auxiliaries or other ships owned or operated by a State and engaged only on governmental non-commercial service; however, each Party shall ensure, by the adoption of appropriate measures not impairing the operations or operational capabilities of such ships owned or operated by it, that the persons serving on board such ships meet the requirements of the Convention so far as is reasonable and practicable;
- (b) fishing vessels;
- (c) pleasure yachts not engaged in trade; or
- (d) wooden ships of primitive build.

*The name of the Organization was changed to "International Maritime Organization (IMO)" by the 1978 Protocol of Amendments to the Organization's Convention which entered into force on 22 May 1982.