



**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 01 OF 2026**

MPA Shipping Division
460 Alexandra Road
#21-00, mTower
Singapore 119963
<http://www.mpa.gov.sg>

11 February 2026

Applicable to: Holders of Certificate of Competency (COC), Certificate of Proficiency (COP) and GMDSS General/Restricted Operator Certificate (GOC/ROC) issued by a foreign administration, as well as flag States, port States, shipowners, ship managers, agents and entities of persons engaged in the services of seafarers holding COC, COP and GOC/ROC issued by a foreign administration.

**RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY FOREIGN ADMINISTRATIONS
UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING,
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978 (STCW 1978), AS
AMENDED**

This circular informs the industry of the Singapore's recognition of certificates issued by or on behalf of foreign administrations, under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, (STCW 1978), as amended.

2 The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), in its role as the maritime administration of Singapore, conducts evaluation and verification prior to the recognition of STCW certificates issued by or on behalf of foreign administrations, pursuant to STCW regulation I/10.

3 This recognition is based on the fulfilment of relevant requirements prescribed under the STCW Convention and Code by foreign administrations, such as maritime training, certification and quality standards, followed by the signing of an undertaking between both parties. The list of recognised foreign administrations is listed in the **Annex**.

4 Notwithstanding the above, MPA retains the right to reject any certificates that do not meet our requirements.

5 Any queries relating to this Shipping Circular shall be emailed to COC@mpa.gov.sg.

6 This circular supersedes Shipping Circular No. 21 of 2017.

CHEAH AUN AUN
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

ANNEX

LIST OF FOREIGN ADMINISTRATIONS RECOGNISED BY SINGAPORE UNDER THE STCW 1978, AS AMENDED

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------|----|--|----|------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|----|------------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|----------|
| 1 | ARGENTINA | 11 | CHINA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF | 21 | FINLAND | 31 | INDONESIA | 41 | LITHUANIA | 51 | PANAMA ¹ | 61 | SOUTH AFRICA | 71 | VIET NAM |
| 2 | AUSTRALIA | 12 | CROATIA | 22 | FRANCE | 32 | IRELAND | 42 | MALAYSIA | 52 | PAPUA NEW GUINEA | 62 | SPAIN | | |
| 3 | AZERBAIJAN | 13 | CYPRUS | 23 | GEORGIA | 33 | ISLAMIC REP OF IRAN | 43 | MALTA | 53 | PHILIPPINES | 63 | SRI LANKA | | |
| 4 | BAHAMAS | 14 | CZECH REPUBLIC | 24 | GERMANY | 34 | ITALY | 44 | MEXICO | 54 | POLAND | 64 | SWEDEN | | |
| 5 | BANGLADESH | 15 | DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA | 25 | GHANA | 35 | JAMAICA | 45 | MONTENEGRO | 55 | PORTUGAL | 65 | THAILAND | | |
| 6 | BELGIUM | 16 | DENMARK | 26 | GREECE | 36 | JAPAN | 46 | MYANMAR | 56 | ROMANIA | 66 | TUNISIA | | |
| 7 | BRAZIL | 17 | EGYPT | 27 | HONG KONG, CHINA | 37 | JORDAN | 47 | NETHERLANDS, KINGDOM OF THE | 57 | RUSSIAN FERDERATION | 67 | TÜRKİYE | | |
| 8 | BULGARIA | 18 | ESTONIA | 28 | HUNGARY | 38 | KENYA | 48 | NEW ZEALAND | 58 | SERBIA | 68 | UKRAINE | | |
| 9 | CANADA | 19 | ETHIOPIA | 29 | ICELAND | 39 | KOREA, REPUBLIC OF | 49 | NORWAY | 59 | SLOVAK REPUBLIC | 69 | UNITED KINGDOM | | |
| 10 | CHILE | 20 | FIJI | 30 | INDIA | 40 | LATVIA | 50 | PAKISTAN | 60 | SLOVENIA | 70 | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | | |

¹ The recognition applies only to Panama Certificate of Competency (COC) holders who have completed preparatory courses for COC acquisition from either:

- a) Universidad Marítima Internacional De Panamá (UMIP), or
- b) Columbus University, Facultad De Ciencias Marinas Y Tecnologicas

When applying for a Certificate of Endorsement (COE), applicants must submit certificates from these institutions alongside their COC.