



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

MPA Shipping Division
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<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 ADMINSTRATIONS 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 REUBLIC 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	TÜRKIYE		
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 Maritime Internacional De Panama (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.