

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978, AS AMENDED (STCW 1978)**

Done at London, 7 July 1978

**Entry into force:** 28 April 1984

Entry into force of amendments adopted in:

1991	1 December 1992
1994	1 January 1996
1995	1 February 1997
1997	1 January 1999
1998	1 January 2003
2004 (MSC.156(78))	1 July 2006
2004 (MSC.180(79))	1 July 2006
2006 (MSC.203(81))	1 January 2008
2006 (MSC.209(81))	1 January 2008

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**Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval and accession**

**Article XIII**

(1) The Convention shall remain open for signature at the Headquarters of the Organization from 1 December 1978 until 30 November 1979 and shall thereafter remain open for accession. Any State may become a Party by:

- (a) signature without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval; or
- (b) signature subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, followed by ratification, acceptance or approval; or
- (c) accession.

(2) Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument to that effect with the Secretary-General.

...

**Entry into force**

**Article XIV**

(1) The Convention shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than twenty-five States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval or deposited the requisite instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in accordance with article XIII.

...

(3) Any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited during the twelve months referred to in paragraph (1) shall take effect on the coming into force of the Convention or three months after the deposit of such instrument, whichever is the later date.

(4) Any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited after the date on which the Convention enters into force shall take effect three months after the date of deposit.

(5) After the date on which an amendment is deemed to have been accepted under article XII, any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited shall apply to the Convention as amended.

## Amendments

### Article XII

(1) The Convention may be amended by either of the following procedures:

(a) amendments after consideration within the Organization:

(i) any amendment proposed by a Party shall be submitted to the Secretary-General, who shall then circulate it to all Members of the Organization, all Parties and the Director-General of the International Labour Office at least six months prior to its consideration;

(ii) any amendment so proposed and circulated shall be referred to the Maritime Safety Committee of the Organization for consideration;

(iii) Parties, whether or not Members of the Organization, shall be entitled to participate in the proceedings of the Maritime Safety Committee for consideration and adoption of amendments;

(iv) amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting in the Maritime Safety Committee expanded as provided for in sub-paragraph (a)(iii) (hereinafter referred to as the "expanded Maritime Safety Committee") on condition that at least one-third of the Parties shall be present at the time of voting;

(v) amendments so adopted shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to all Parties for acceptance;

(vi) an amendment to an article shall be deemed to have been accepted on the date on which it is accepted by two-thirds of the Parties;

(vii) an amendment to the Annex shall be deemed to have been accepted:

1. at the end of two years from the date on which it is communicated to Parties for acceptance; or

2. at the end of a different period, which shall be not less than one year, if so determined at the time of its adoption by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting in the expanded Maritime Safety Committee;

however, the amendments shall be deemed not to have been accepted if within the specified period either more than one-third of Parties, or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, notify the Secretary-General that they object to the amendment;

(viii) an amendment to an article shall enter into force with respect to those Parties which have accepted it, six months after the date on which it is deemed to have been accepted, and with respect to each Party which accepts it after that date, six months after the date of that Party's acceptance;

(ix) an amendment to the Annex shall enter into force with respect to all Parties, except those which have objected to the amendment under sub-paragraph (a)(vii) and which have not withdrawn such objections, six months after the date on which it is deemed to have been accepted. Before the date determined for entry into force, any Party may give notice to the Secretary-General that it exempts itself from giving effect to that amendment for a period not longer than one year from the date of its entry into force, or for such longer period as may be determined by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting in the expanded Maritime Safety Committee at the time of the adoption of the amendment; or

## (b) amendment by a conference:

(i) upon the request of a Party concurred in by at least one-third of the Parties, the Organization shall convene, in association or consultation with the Director-General of the International Labour Office, a conference of Parties to consider amendments to the Convention;

(ii) every amendment adopted by such a conference by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to all Parties for acceptance;

(iii) unless the conference decides otherwise, the amendment shall be deemed to have been accepted and shall enter into force in accordance with the procedures specified in sub-paragraphs (a)(vi) and (a)(viii) or sub-paragraphs (a)(vii) and (a)(ix) respectively, provided that references in these sub-paragraphs to the expanded Maritime Safety Committee shall be taken to mean references to the conference.

(2) Any declaration of acceptance of, or objection to, an amendment or any notice given under paragraph (1)(a)(ix) shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall inform all Parties of any such submission and the date of its receipt.

(3) The Secretary-General shall inform all Parties of any amendments which enter into force, together with the date on which each such amendment enters into force.

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I. Signatories

II. Contracting States

III. Declarations, Reservations and Statements

IV. Amendments

- (1) 1991 (Chapters I, II, IV and VI) Amendments (MSC.21(59))
- (2) 1994 (Chapter V) Amendments (MSC.33(63))
- (3) 1995 (Chapter I and STCW Code) Amendments (CONF)
- (4) 1997 (Chapter V) Amendments (MSC.66(68))
- (5) 1997 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.67(68))
- (6) 1998 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.78(70))
- (7) 2004 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.156(78))
- (8) 2004 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.180(79))
- (9) 2006 (Chapters I and VI) Amendments (MSC.203(81))
- (10) 2006 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.209(81))
- (11) 2010 Manila amendments (STCW Convention and STCW Code)

**I. Signatories**

Australia	Subject to ratification
Belgium	Sous réserve de ratification
China	<i>[Translation]</i> Subject to approval
Denmark	Subject to ratification and with reservation as to the application to the Faroe and Greenland
Finland	Subject to ratification
France	Sous réserve d'approbation ultérieure
German Democratic Republic	Subject to ratification
Germany, Federal Republic of	Subject to ratification
Greece	Subject to ratification
Ireland	Subject to ratification
Liberia	Subject to ratification
Norway	Subject to ratification
Poland	Subject to ratification
Sweden	Subject to ratification
Switzerland	Sous réservation de la ratification
USSR	
United Kingdom	Subject to ratification
United States	Subject to ratification
Yugoslavia	Subject to approval

**II. Contracting States**

	<b>Date of signature or deposit of instrument</b>	<b>Date of entry into force or succession</b>
Albania (accession)	20 March 2002	20 June 2002
Algeria (accession)	28 October 1988	28 January 1989
Angola (accession)	3 October 1991	3 January 1992
Antigua and Barbuda (accession)	5 February 1997	5 May 1997
Argentina (accession)	6 October 1982	28 April 1984
Australia (ratification) <sup>1</sup>	7 November 1983	28 April 1984
Austria (accession)	29 January 1997	29 April 1997
Azerbaijan (accession)	1 July 1997	1 October 1997
Bahamas (accession)	7 June 1983	28 April 1984
Bahrain (accession)	13 June 1996	13 September 1996
Bangladesh (accession)	6 November 1981	28 April 1984
Barbados (accession)	6 May 1994	6 August 1994
Belgium (ratification)	14 September 1982	28 April 1984
Belize (accession)	24 January 1997	24 April 1997
Benin (accession)	1 November 1985	1 February 1986
Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (accession)	11 April 1988	11 July 1988
Brazil (accession)	17 January 1984	28 April 1984
Brunei Darussalam (accession)	23 October 1986	23 January 1987
Bulgaria (accession)	31 March 1982	28 April 1984
Cambodia (accession)	8 June 2001	8 September 2001
Cameroon (accession)	6 June 1989	6 September 1989
Canada (accession) <sup>1</sup>	6 November 1987	6 February 1988
Cape Verde (accession)	18 September 1989	18 December 1989
Chile (accession) <sup>1</sup>	9 June 1987	9 September 1987
China (approval) <sup>3</sup>	8 June 1981	28 April 1984
Colombia (accession)	27 July 1981	28 April 1984
Comoros (accession)	22 November 2000	22 February 2001
Congo (accession)	7 August 2002	7 November 2002
Cook Islands (accession)	17 February 2010	17 May 2010
Côte d'Ivoire (accession)	5 October 1987	5 January 1988

	<b>Date of signature or deposit of instrument</b>	<b>Date of entry into force or succession</b>
Croatia (succession)	-	8 October 1991
Cuba (accession)	5 December 1989	5 March 1990
Cyprus (accession)	28 March 1985	28 June 1985
Czech Republic (succession)	-	1 January 1993
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (accession)	1 May 1985	1 August 1985
Democratic Republic of the Congo (accession) <sup>4</sup>	4 April 1995	4 July 1995
Denmark (ratification) <sup>1</sup>	20 January 1981	28 April 1984
Dominica (accession)	21 June 2000	21 September 2000
Ecuador (accession)	17 May 1988	17 August 1988
Egypt (accession)	22 September 1980	28 April 1984
El Salvador (accession)	29 November 2012	1 March 2012
Equatorial Guinea (accession)	24 April 1996	24 July 1996
Eritrea (accession)	22 April 1996	22 July 1996
Estonia (accession)	29 August 1995	29 November 1995
Ethiopia (accession)	18 July 1985	18 October 1985
Fiji (accession)	27 March 1991	27 June 1991
Finland (ratification)	27 January 1984	28 April 1984
France (approval)	11 July 1980	28 April 1984
Gabon (accession)	21 January 1982	28 April 1984
Gambia (accession)	1 November 1991	1 February 1992
Georgia (accession)	19 April 1994	19 July 1994
Germany (ratification) <sup>1, 5</sup>	28 May 1982	28 April 1984
Ghana (accession)	26 January 1989	26 April 1989
Greece (ratification)	22 March 1983	28 April 1984
Grenada (accession)	28 June 2004	28 September 2004
Guatemala (accession)	17 September 2002	17 December 2002
Guinea (accession)	5 August 1994	5 November 1994
Guyana (accession)	26 November 1997	26 February 1998
Haiti (accession)	6 April 1989	6 July 1989
Honduras (accession)	24 September 1985	24 December 1985
Hungary (accession)	15 October 1985	15 January 1986
Iceland (accession)	21 March 1995	21 June 1995
India (accession)	16 November 1984	16 February 1985
Indonesia (accession)	27 January 1987	27 April 1987
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (accession)	1 August 1996	1 November 1996
Iraq (accession)	10 December 2001	10 March 2002
Ireland (ratification)	11 September 1984	11 December 1984
Israel (accession)	16 January 1986	16 April 1986
Italy (accession)	26 August 1987	26 November 1987
Jamaica (accession)	19 February 1987	19 May 1987
Japan (accession)	27 May 1982	28 April 1984
Jordan (accession)	17 May 2000	17 August 2000
Kazakhstan (accession)	7 March 1994	7 June 1994
Kenya (accession)	15 December 1992	15 March 1993
Kiribati (accession)	5 August 1987	5 November 1987
Kuwait (accession)	22 May 1998	22 August 1998
Latvia (accession)	20 May 1992	20 August 1992
Lebanon (accession)	5 December 1994	5 March 1995
Liberia (ratification)	28 October 1980	28 April 1984
Libya (accession)	10 August 1983	28 April 1984
Lithuania (accession)	4 December 1991	4 March 1992
Luxembourg (accession)	14 February 1991	14 May 1991
Madagascar (accession)	7 March 1996	7 June 1996
Malawi (accession)	9 March 1993	9 June 1993
Malaysia (accession)	30 January 1992	30 April 1992
Maldives (accession)	22 January 1987	22 April 1987
Malta (accession)	21 June 1991	21 September 1991
Marshall Islands (accession)	25 April 1989	25 July 1989
Mauritania (accession)	17 November 1995	17 February 1996
Mauritius (accession)	4 July 1991	4 October 1991

	<b>Date of signature or deposit of instrument</b>	<b>Date of entry into force or succession</b>
Mexico (accession)	2 February 1982	28 April 1984
Micronesia (Federated States of) (accession)	14 July 1998	14 October 1998
Moldova (accession)	11 October 2005	11 January 2006
Mongolia (accession)	26 June 2002	26 September 2002
Montenegro (succession) <sup>9, 10</sup>	---	3 June 2006
Morocco (accession)	22 July 1997	22 October 1997
Mozambique (accession)	15 November 1985	15 February 1986
Myanmar (accession)	4 May 1988	4 August 1988
Namibia (accession)	24 January 2005	24 April 2005
Netherlands (accession) <sup>6</sup>	26 July 1985	26 October 1985
New Zealand (accession) <sup>7</sup>	30 July 1986	30 October 1986
Nicaragua (accession)	9 March 2009	9 June 2009
Nigeria (accession)	13 November 1984	13 February 1985
Niue (accession)	18 May 2012	18 August 2012
Norway (ratification)	18 January 1982	28 April 1984
Oman (accession)	24 September 1990	24 December 1990
Pakistan (accession)	10 April 1985	10 July 1985
Palau (accession)	29 September 2011	29 December 2011
Panama (accession)	29 June 1992	29 September 1992
Papua New Guinea (accession)	28 October 1991	28 January 1992
Peru (accession)	16 July 1982	28 April 1984
Philippines (accession)	22 February 1984	22 May 1984
Poland (ratification)	27 April 1983	28 April 1984
Portugal (accession)	30 October 1985	30 January 1986
Qatar (accession)	29 May 2002	29 August 2002
Republic of Korea (accession)	4 April 1985	4 July 1985
Romania (accession)	11 January 1993	11 April 1993
Russian Federation (signature) <sup>8</sup>	9 October 1979	28 April 1984
Saint Kitts and Nevis (accession)	11 June 2004	11 September 2004
Saint Lucia (accession)	20 May 2004	20 August 2004
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (accession)	28 June 1995	28 September 1995
Samoa (accession)	24 May 1993	24 August 1993
São Tomé and Príncipe (accession)	29 October 1998	29 January 1999
Saudi Arabia (accession)	29 November 1990	1 March 1991
Senegal (accession)	16 January 1997	16 April 1997
Serbia (succession) <sup>9, 10</sup>	-	3 June 2006
Seychelles (accession)	22 August 1988	22 November 1988
Sierra Leone (accession)	13 August 1993	13 November 1993
Singapore (accession)	1 May 1988	1 August 1988
Slovakia (succession)	-	1 January 1993
Slovenia (succession)	-	25 June 1991
Solomon Islands (accession)	1 June 1994	1 September 1994
South Africa (accession)	27 July 1983	28 April 1984
Spain (accession)	21 October 1980	28 April 1984
Sri Lanka (accession)	22 January 1987	22 April 1987
Sudan (accession)	26 February 1997	26 May 1997
Sweden (ratification)	8 January 1981	28 April 1984
Switzerland (ratification)	15 December 1987	15 March 1988
Syrian Arab Republic (accession)	20 July 2001	20 October 2001
Thailand (accession)	19 June 1997	19 September 1997
Togo (accession)	19 July 1989	19 October 1989
Tonga (accession)	7 February 1995	7 May 1995
Trinidad and Tobago (accession)	3 February 1989	3 May 1989
Tunisia (accession)	8 February 1995	8 May 1995
Turkey (accession)	28 July 1992	28 October 1992
Turkmenistan (accession)	4 February 2009	4 May 2009
Tuvalu (accession)	22 August 1985	22 November 1985
Ukraine (accession)	7 January 1997	7 April 1997
United Arab Emirates (accession)	15 December 1983	28 April 1984
United Kingdom (ratification) <sup>1, 2</sup>	28 November 1980	28 April 1984
United Republic of Tanzania (accession)	27 October 1982	28 April 1984

	<b>Date of signature or deposit of instrument</b>	<b>Date of entry into force or succession</b>
United States (ratification)	1 July 1991	1 October 1991
Uruguay (accession)	3 August 1993	3 November 1993
Vanuatu (accession)	22 April 1991	22 July 1991
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (accession)	13 October 1987	13 January 1988
Viet Nam (accession)	18 December 1990	18 March 1991
Yemen (accession)	14 February 2005	14 May 2005

Number of Contracting States: 157  
(the combined merchant fleets of which constitute approximately 99.23% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet)

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<sup>1</sup> For the text of a reservation, declaration or statement, see section III.

<sup>2</sup> Ratification by the United Kingdom was declared to be effective also in respect of:

Hong Kong\* - as from 3 November 1984  
Isle of Man - as from 1 July 1985  
Bermuda - as from 1 January 1989  
Cayman Islands - as from 1 April 1991  
Gibraltar - as from 27 September 1995

Extended to the British Virgin Islands with effect from 19 June 2006.

\* Ceased to apply to Hong Kong with effect from 1 July 1997.

<sup>3</sup> Applies to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region with effect from 1 July 1997, and to the Macao Special Administrative Region with effect from 18 July 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Formerly Zaire.

<sup>5</sup> On 3 October 1990 the German Democratic Republic acceded to the Federal Republic of Germany. The German Democratic Republic had ratified the Convention on 5 November 1979.

<sup>6</sup> Accession by the Netherlands was declared to be effective also in respect of the Netherlands Antilles\* and, with effect from 1 January 1986, in respect of Aruba.

\* The Netherlands Antilles has ceased to exist as an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands with effect from 10 October 2010. Since that date, the Kingdom of the Netherlands consists of four autonomous countries: The Netherlands (European part and Caribbean part), Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. For more details see footnote 4, in section II of SOLAS 1974.. The Convention applies as follows:

	<b>Effective from</b>
The Netherlands (European part)	) 26 October 1985
Caribbean part of the Netherlands	) 10 October 2010
Aruba	) 1 January 1986
Curaçao	) 10 October 2010
Sint Maarten	) 10 October 2010

<sup>7</sup> Accession by New Zealand was declared to apply also to the Cook Islands and Niue but not to extend to Tokelau.

On 17 February May 2010, the Cook Islands acceded to the Convention. Accordingly, from 17 May 2010, date of its entry into force, the Government of New Zealand will cease to have State responsibility for the observance of the obligations under this Convention in respect of the Cook Islands.

<sup>8</sup> As from 26 December 1991 the membership of the USSR in the Convention is continued by the Russian Federation.

<sup>9</sup> As from 4 February 2003, the name of the State of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was changed to Serbia and Montenegro. The date of succession by Serbia and Montenegro to the Convention is the date on which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia assumed responsibility for its international relations.

<sup>10</sup> Following the dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro on 3 June 2006, all Treaty actions undertaken by Serbia and Montenegro continue to be in force with respect to Republic of Serbia. Montenegro has informed that it wished to succeed to this treaty with effect from the same date, ie. 3 June 2006.



### III. Declarations, Reservations and Statements

#### AUSTRALIA

The instrument of ratification of the Commonwealth of Australia was accompanied by the following statement:

"Australia has a federal constitutional system in which legislative, executive and judicial powers are shared or distributed between the Commonwealth and the constituent States.

"The implementation of the Treaty throughout Australia will be effected by the Commonwealth, State and Territory authorities having regard to their respective constitutional powers and arrangements concerning their exercise."

#### CANADA<sup>1</sup>

The instrument of accession of Canada was accompanied by the following reservation:

"The Government of Canada reserves its position with regard to the provisions of paragraph 6(d) of the appendix to regulation II/2 and paragraph 16 of the appendix to regulation II/4 in the Annex to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 in respect of the compulsory knowledge of an ability to use the English language. The position of the Government of Canada is that the provisions of those paragraphs which refer to the ability to use navigational publications in English, and the need to have an adequate knowledge of the English language, are not applicable to Canada as there are two official languages in Canada: English and French. Both languages have equal status, consequently candidates for certificates may choose to be examined in either language."

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<sup>1</sup> The depositary received the following communication dated 3 November 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the USSR to IMO:

*[Translation]*

"In connection with the reservation made by the Government of Canada when acceding to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (IMO document STCW/Circ.61 of 26 November 1987) the Soviet side considers it necessary to make the following statement.

"Requirements on knowledge of the English language, contained in paragraph 6(d) of the appendix to regulation II/2 and paragraph 16 of the appendix to regulation II/4 in the Annex to the Convention are mandatory minimum requirements for certification of masters, chief and watchkeeping officers and their observance represents a significant condition of ensuring high qualifications of officers of the crew. Non-observance of those requirements could result in negative consequences for the safety of international maritime navigation. In this connection the reservation of the Government of Canada, in the opinion of the Soviet side, is incompatible with the purposes of the Convention.

"The reference made by the Government of Canada to the two state languages does not seem to be well-founded in so far as internal status of this or that language cannot serve as an excuse for non-observance of the obligations assumed by States under the international law.

"Taking into account the above-stated, the Soviet side cannot recognize this reservation of the Government of Canada as valid."

## CHILE

The instrument of accession of the Republic of Chile contained the following reservation (in the Spanish language):

*[Translation]*

"... formulating an express reservation concerning the provisions of subparagraphs (vii) and (ix) of paragraph 1(a) of article XII to the effect that amendments to the Annex shall not be binding on Chile until such time as it has complied with the internal procedure established by the Political Constitution of the Republic for the approval of treaties."

## DENMARK

The instrument of ratification of the Kingdom of Denmark was accompanied by the following reservation:

"... a decision as to the applicability of the provisions of the Convention to Greenland and the Faroe is pending the completion of the internal procedures prescribed in this respect. The ratification of Denmark is therefore, until further notice, subject to reservation with regard to the obligations of Greenland and the Faroe under the Convention."

and a statement that:

"... the decision on Denmark's ratification was taken in accordance with the recommendation of December 21, 1978, of the Council of the European Communities concerning the ratification of the Convention."

The following communication dated 18 September 1990 was received from the Royal Danish Embassy:

"... that the reservation made with regard to the obligations of the Faroe in connection with Denmark's ratification has been lifted in accordance with a recommendation submitted by the local government of the Faroe.

This notice does not affect the reservation made with respect to Greenland".

## FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY<sup>1</sup>

The instrument of ratification of the Federal Republic of Germany was accompanied by the following declaration (in the German language):

*[Translation]*

"... that with effect from the day on which the Convention enters into force for the Federal Republic of Germany it shall also apply to Berlin (West)."

The Instrument was also accompanied by a Note informing the Secretary-General that:

"... the ratification of the Convention by the Federal Republic of Germany is done in view of the recommendation by the Council of the European Communities dated 21 December 1978."

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<sup>1</sup> The depositary received a communication dated 20 December 1982 from the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in London. The communication, the full text of which was circulated by the depositary, includes the following:

*[Translation]*

"The Soviet Side can take note of the statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the extension to Berlin (West) of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers of 1978 only with the understanding that such an extension is made in accordance with the Quadripartite Agreement of 3 September 1971 and under the

observance of the established procedures."

The following communication dated 23 March 1983 was received from the Government of the German Democratic Republic:

*[Translation]*

"It is the understanding of the German Democratic Republic with respect to the application of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, that the provisions of the Convention shall be applied to Berlin (West) in conformity with the Quadripartite Agreement of 3 September 1971 and subject to observance of established procedures".

The following communication dated 30 August 1983 was received from the Government of the United Kingdom:

"... the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs would like to reaffirm, on behalf of the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of France and of the United States of America, that States which are not parties to the Quadripartite Agreement are not competent to comment authoritatively on its provisions.

The following communication dated 9 September 1983 was received from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in London:

"In this connection the Embassy has the honour to refer to the note of 30 August 1983 sent by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on behalf of the Governments of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America and to state that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany supports the position set forth in that note.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany wished to point out that the absence of a response to further communications of a similar nature should not be taken to imply any change of its position in this matter".

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

The instrument of ratification of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland contained the following reservation:

"... reserving the right not to apply the said Convention in respect of any territory for whose international relations the Government of the United Kingdom is responsible until three months after the date on which the Government of the United Kingdom notify the Secretary-General of the [International Maritime Organization] that the said Convention shall apply in respect of any such territory."

#### **IV. Amendments**

##### **(1) 1991 (Chapters I, II, IV and VI) Amendments (MSC.21(59))**

###### **A. Adoption**

The Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-ninth session (May 1991) adopted by resolution MSC.21(59), in accordance with article XII of the Convention, amendments to chapters I, II, IV and VI of the Convention.

###### **B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(viii) of the Convention, and as determined by the Maritime Safety Committee, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 December 1992 unless, prior to 1 June 1992, more than one-third of Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. No such notification was received and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 December 1992.

##### **(2) 1994 (Chapter V) Amendments (MSC.33(63))**

###### **A. Adoption**

The Maritime Safety Committee at its sixty-third session (May 1994) adopted by resolution MSC.33(63), in accordance with article XII of the Convention, amendments to chapter V of the Convention.

###### **B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, and as determined by the Maritime Safety Committee, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 1996 unless, prior to 1 July 1995, more than one-third of Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. No such notification was received and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 January 1996.

**(3) 1995 (Chapter I and STCW Code) Amendments (CONF)****A. Adoption**

A Conference of Parties to the Convention adopted on 7 July 1995, in accordance with article XII(1)(b)(ii) of the Convention, amendments to chapters I-VIII of the Convention and the STCW Code.

**B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, and as determined by the Conference, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 February 1997 unless, prior to 1 August 1996, more than one-third of Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. As at 1 August 1996 one objection<sup>1</sup> had been communicated to the Secretary-General and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 February 1997.

**(4) 1997 (Chapter V) Amendments (MSC.66(68))****A. Adoption**

The Maritime Safety Committee at its sixty-eighth session (June 1997) adopted by resolution MSC.66(68), in accordance with article XII of the Convention, amendments to chapter V of the Convention.

**B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, and as determined by the Maritime Safety Committee, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 1999 unless, prior to 1 July 1998, more than one-third of Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. No such notification was received and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 January 1999.

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<sup>1</sup> The depositary received, on 12 July 1996, the following communication from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland:

"... the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland hereby inform that the Government of Finland is not able to accept the aforementioned amendments due to the fact that the amendments contradict, to some extent, with national laws and regulations in force and therefore Parliamentary procedure is required.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs have, however, the honour to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of Finland intends to accept the amendments as soon as the legislative amendments necessary to such acceptance have been carried out. The preparation of a legislative proposal including the necessary amendments shall be initiated during autumn 1996 and they are expected to be carried out in the beginning of 1997. The Government of Finland will not fail to inform the Secretary-General of any developments in this respect."

Acceptance by Finland of the above-mentioned amendments was effected by the deposit of an instrument on 14 December 1998.

**(5) 1997 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.67(68))**

**A. Adoption**

The Maritime Safety Committee at its sixty-eighth session (June 1997) adopted, by resolution MSC.67(68), in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the STCW Code.

**B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, and as determined by the Maritime Safety Committee, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 1999 unless, prior to 1 July 1998, more than one-third of Parties to the Convention or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. No such notification was received and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 January 1999.

**(6) 1998 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.78(70))**

**A. Adoption**

The Maritime Safety Committee at its seventieth session (December 1998) adopted, by resolution MSC.78(70), in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the STCW Code.

**B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, and as determined by the Maritime Safety Committee, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2003 unless, prior to 1 July 2002, more than one-third of Parties to the Convention or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. No such notification was received and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 January 2003.

**(7) 2004 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.156(78))**

**A. Adoption**

The Maritime Safety Committee at its seventy-eighth session (May 2004) adopted, by resolution MSC.156(78), in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the STCW Code.

**B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, and as determined by the Maritime Safety Committee, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 July 2006 unless, prior to 1 January 2006, more than one-third of Parties to the Convention or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross tonnage or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. As at 1 January 2006, no such notification of objection was received and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 July 2006.

**(8) 2004 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.180(79))**

**A. Adoption**

The Maritime Safety Committee at its seventy-ninth session (December 2004) adopted, by resolution MSC.180(79), in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the STCW Code.

**B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 July 2006 unless, prior to 1 January 2006, more than one-third of Parties to the Convention or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross tonnage or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. As at 1 January 2006, no

such notification of objection was received and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 July 2006.

### **(9) 2006 (Chapters I and VI) Amendments (MSC.203(81))**

#### **A. Adoption**

The Maritime Safety Committee at its eighty-first session (May 2006) adopted, by resolution MSC.203(81), in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to Chapters I and VI of the Convention.

#### **B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2008 unless, prior to 1 July 2007, more than one-third of Parties to the Convention or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross tonnage or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. As at 1 July 2007 one objection<sup>1</sup> had been received and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 January 2008.

### **(10) 2006 (STCW Code) Amendments (MSC.209(81))**

#### **A. Adoption**

The Maritime Safety Committee at its seventy-ninth session (December 2004) adopted, by resolution MSC.209(81), in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the STCW Code.

#### **B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2008 unless, prior to 1 July 2007, more than one-third of Parties to the Convention or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross tonnage or more, have notified their objections to the amendments. As at 1 July 2007, one objection<sup>2</sup> had been received and the amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 January 2008.

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<sup>1</sup> The depositary received, on 20 June 2007, the following communication from the Embassy of Finland:

“ the Embassy hereby informs that the Government of Finland is not able, at this stage, to accept the aforementioned amendments, due to national procedural requirements.”

The depositary received, on 15 June 2009, a further communication from the Embassy of Finland:

“The Embassy has the honour hereby to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of Finland has fulfilled the national procedural requirements for the entry into force of the aforementioned amendments and can thus withdraw its objection. The amendments will enter into force for Finland on 15 June 2009”.

<sup>2</sup> The depositary received, on 20 June 2007, the following communication from the Embassy of Finland:

“ the Embassy hereby informs that the Government of Finland is not able, at this stage, to accept the aforementioned amendments, due to national procedural requirements.”

The depositary received, on 29 June 2009, a further communication from the Embassy of Finland:

“The Embassy has the honour hereby to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of Finland has fulfilled the national procedural requirements for the entry into force of the aforementioned amendments and can thus withdraw its objection. The amendments will enter into force for Finland on 30 June 2009”.

**(11) 2010 Manila amendments (STCW Convention and STCW Code)**

**A. Adoption**

A Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, held in Manila, the Philippines, (June 2010), adopted, by resolutions 1 and 2 respectively, amendments to the annex to the Convention and to the STCW Code (the Manila amendments).

**B. Entry into force**

In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(vii) of the Convention, both sets of amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2011, unless, prior to that date, more than one-third of Parties to the Convention, or Parties, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50 per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have notified their objection to the amendments. Following their deemed acceptance, the amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2012, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention. As at 1 July 2011, one objection<sup>1</sup> had been received, and the amendments, accordingly, entered into force on 1 January 2012. Under article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the STCW Convention, before the date set for entry into force, any Party may give notice to the Secretary-General that it exempts itself from giving effect to an amendment adopted under the procedure laid down in article XII(2) of the same Convention, for a period not longer than one year. Such notice was given by Slovenia<sup>2</sup>, Lithuania<sup>2</sup>, Denmark<sup>2</sup>, New Zealand<sup>3</sup>, the United Kingdom<sup>3</sup>, and Ireland<sup>3</sup>, Portugal<sup>3</sup> and Latvia<sup>4</sup>.

The amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 January 2012 for all Parties to the Convention, except Finland, Slovenia, Lithuania, Denmark, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Portugal.

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<sup>1</sup> On 13 June 2011, the Depositary received a communication from the Embassy of Finland as follows:

“The Embassy hereby informs, with reference to article XII(1)(a)(vii) and XII(1)(a)(ix) that, due to national procedural requirements, Finland is obliged to object to the above-mentioned amendments. The Embassy has the honour to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of Finland intends to accept the amendments as soon as the legislative amendments necessary to such acceptance have been carried out and that it will not fail to inform the Secretary-General of any developments in this respect”.

<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the Secretary-General received, on 12 December, 15 December 2011 and 19 December, respectively, communications from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark, under article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the STCW Convention, informing him as follows (the wording of the three communications is identical):

“The amendments to the Annex to the Convention and to the Code will enter into force on 1 January 2012. However, under article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the STCW Convention, before the date set for entry into force, any Party may give notice to the Secretary-General that it exempts itself from giving effect to an amendment adopted under the procedure laid down in article XII(2) of the same Convention, for a period not longer than one year.

The Embassy/the Ministry of Transport and Communications/the Minister for Foreign Affairs hereby inform that, with reference to Regulation VIII/1 (Fitness for duty) of the Annex to the STCW Convention and Section A-VIII/1 of the STCW Code, due to national procedural requirements, the Republic of Slovenia/the Republic of Lithuania/the Kingdom of Denmark are not able to give effect to the Manila amendments before 1 January 2013.

The Embassy/the Ministry of Transport and Communications/the Minister for Foreign Affairs have, however, the honour to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of Republic of Slovenia/the Government of the Republic of Lithuania/the Government of Denmark will not fail to inform the Secretary-General of any developments in this respect.”

<sup>3</sup> The Secretary-General received four further communications, as follows:

- on 19 December 2011, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, informing him that:  
"In accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, the Government of New Zealand exempts itself from giving effect to the Manila Amendments for a period of one year from the date of their entry into force, namely 1 January 2012. Accordingly, the Government of New Zealand records its understanding that it will give effect to the Manila Amendments from 1 January 2013."

- on 22 December 2011, from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, informing him, with regard to:



- “1. Regulation VIII/1 (Fitness for duty) of the Annex to the STCW Convention and Section A-VIII/1 of the STCW Code);
2. Regulation I/9 (Medical Standards) of the Annex to the STCW Convention and Section A-I/9 of the STCW Code;
3. Regulation II/5 (Able Seafarer Deck) of the Annex to the STCW Convention and Section A-II/5 of the STCW Code; Regulation III/6 (Electro-Technical Officers) of the Annex to the STCW Convention and Section A-III/6 of the STCW Code;
4. Regulation VIII/1.1 (Exceptions from required Hours of Rest) of the Annex to the STCW Convention and Section A-III/1.9 of the STCW Code; and
5. Regulation VIII/1.2 (Prevention of Alcohol Abuse, Limits) of the Annex to the STCW Convention and Code and Section A-VIII/1.10 of the STCW Code;

that due to national procedural requirements the United Kingdom is not able to give effect to the Manila amendments before 1st January 2013. The Government of United Kingdom and Northern Ireland will inform the Secretary-General of any developments in this respect.”

- and on 22 December 2011, from the Embassies of Ireland and Portugal, as follows:

“The Embassy of Ireland/Portugal hereby informs IMO that, due to national regulatory and administrative requirements, Ireland/Portugal are not in a position to be able to give effect to Regulation VIII/1 (Fitness for duty) of the Annex to the STCW Convention and Section A VIII/1 of the STCW Code before 1st January 2013. The Government of Northern Ireland/the Portuguese authorities will not fail to inform the Secretary-General of any developments in this respect.”

<sup>4</sup> Before the 31 December 2011 deadline, the Secretary-General received a communication from the Embassy of Latvia, as follows:

“The Embassy hereby informs that, with reference to any amendments to Chapters I and VIII of the Annex to the STCW Convention that do not directly involve certification of seafarers, under regulation 1/15, due to national procedural requirements, Latvia is not able to give effect to the Manila amendments before 1 January 2013.

The Embassy has however, the honour to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of Latvia will not fail to inform the Secretary-General of any developments in this respect.”

The amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 January 2012 for all Parties to the Convention, except Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.