



Seafarers Department Circular **SDC-16/01**

IMMARBE

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

REVISED CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIP SECURITY OFFICERS (SSO) ON BOARD BELIZE-REGISTERED VESSELS

TO: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, ISM OPERATORS/OWNERS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS.

ISSUANCE DATE: 22nd August 2016

Revision No.: 3

SDC superseded: **SDC-12/01 and SDC-15/09**

Dated: 19th March 2012 and 29 June 2015

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Circular is to inform all concerned parties of our revised certification requirements for Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for Ship Security Officer (SSO) on board Belize flagged vessels.

As previously informed by our Seafarer Department Circulars **SDC-12/01**, **SDF/F/12/01** and **SDC-15/09** making references to International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) requirements for Ship Security Officers on board Belize flagged vessels. IMMARBE, after careful consideration, has now decided to revise these requirements as follows:

- 1.1 All Belize flagged vessels engaged on international voyages in which the ISPS Code applies, must have on board one (1) Ship Security Officer (SSO) and such shall be a management level officer. It is highly recommended that this duty be executed by the Master, Chief Officer, Chief Engineer or Second Engineer, who shall hold a valid SSO Certificate of Proficiency (CoP-STCW Reg. V1/5) issued by, or on behalf of, any credible Administration (Member Party of STCW Convention "IMO White List Countries") in accordance with STCW Convention and code.
- 1.2 If the person designated is not the Master, it must be understood that the Master still holds overall responsibility for the security of the ship which cannot be relinquished.

1.3 All Ship Security Officers (SSO) on board Belize Vessels are hereby requested to maintain regular communication with the Company Security Officer (CSO) in order to comply with the measures established in the Ship Security Plan.

2. FLAG STATE ENDORSEMENT

ISM Operators or Company Security Officer (CSO) are no longer required to apply for IMMARBE endorsement attesting the recognition of a Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for Ship Security Officer (SSO); nevertheless, they are entitled to verify and confirm that the SSO holds a valid CoP (STCW Reg. V1/5) issued by, or on behalf of, another Administration (Member Party of STCW Convention "IMO White List Countries") in accordance with STCW Convention and code.

ISM Operators or Company Security Officer (CSO) are required to submit via email a copy of Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) as SSO issued by, or on behalf of, another Administration (Member Party of STCW Convention "IMO White List Countries") prior the SSO boarding a Belize Flag vessel (s) and in order to receive a confirmation of acceptance by one the IMMARBE's Seafarer Officer.

The emails where copy of Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for SSO need to be sent are as follows:

Name: **Ms. Crystal Allen (Senior Seafarer Officer)**

Email: certification@immarbe.com

Name: **Mr. Elias Gonzalez (Seafarer Officer)**

E-mail: seafarersofficer@immarbe.com

3. IMPLEMENTATION

The above shall take effect from 01 September 2016. Except in cases where Certificate of Proficiency CoP are currently being processed, the above shall take effect subsequent to the issuance of that Certificate of Proficiency CoP.



Capt. Luis Muriel

Seafarer Manager

Email: seafarersmanager@immarbe.com



Capt. Demetrio Cortes

Technical Director of IMMARBE

Email: demetrio@immarbe.com