

[MTC RESOLUTION NO. 04, SERIES OF 2006, July 20, 2006]

ENSURING CONTINUOUS VALIDITY OF STCW '95 CERTIFICATES

Whereas, Regulation I/11, paragraph 1 (Revalidation of Certificates) of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended (revised STCW Convention), requires that every master and officer holding a certificate issued or recognized under any chapter of the Convention other than chapter VI, who is serving at sea or intends to return to sea after a period ashore, shall, in order to continue to qualify for seagoing service, be required at intervals not exceeding five years to meet the standards of medical fitness prescribed under regulation I/9; and establish continued professional competence in accordance with section A-I/11 of the STCW Code.

Whereas, Regulation I/2, paragraph 3 (Certificates and Endorsements) of the revised STCW Convention, requires that the endorsement required by article VI of the Convention to attest the issue of a certificate shall only be issued if all the requirements of the Convention have been complied with.

Whereas, a marine deck officer applying for issuance/revalidation of his STCW Certificate of Competency and Endorsement Certificate (STCW '95 Certificates) with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) who is qualified under Chapter IV and/or V of the revised STCW Convention, is required to submit the General Operators Certificate (GOC) and the corresponding National Assessment Center (NAC) Certificate, respectively.

Whereas, on the other hand, a marine engineer officer applying for issuance/revalidation of his STCW '95 Certificates with PRC who is qualified under Chapter V of the revised STCW Convention, is required to submit the corresponding NAC Certificate.

Whereas, the GOC issued by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the NAC Certificate issued by the National Assessment Center as requirements for the issuance/revalidation of the STCW '95 Certificates could have earlier expiry dates than the usual five (5) year validity period of the STCW '95 Certificates issued by PRC.

Whereas, a scenario in the preceding paragraph wherein the GOC and NAC Certificates have expired prior to the expiry date of the STCW '95 Certificates of marine officers, without the same having promptly revalidated, should be avoided for purposes of Port State Control inspection and considering that with the issuance/revalidation of the STCW '95 Certificates of marine officers, PRC certifies that the marine officer is in possession of valid GOC and NAC Certificates up to the expiry date of the STCW '95 Certificates.

Whereas, Regulation I/14 (Responsibilities of Companies) of the revised STCW