

	<p align="center"><b>GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA</b></p> <p align="center"><b>DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND</b></p> <p align="center"><b>MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Circular 01-003-07</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Mandatory minimum requirements for the</b>  <b>issuance of a Certificate of Proficiency for a</b>  <b>Ship Security Officer</b></p>	Document	Circ. 01-003-07
		Revision	00
		Page	1 of 2
		Reference	STCW 1978, as amended

**Circular letter to:**

**all companies having registered their ships under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda W.I.;**  
**all ships registered under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda W.I.;**  
**all recognized Antigua and Barbuda Filing Agents**

**1. General**

It is to be expected that a new STCW-Regulation VI/5 will enter into force on 1 January 2008 concerning the requirements for the issuance of certificates of proficiency for SSOs.

**2. Definitions:**

**Ship Security Officer** means the person on board a ship, accountable to the master, designated by the Company as responsible for the security of the ship including implementation and maintenance of the Ship Security Plan (SSP) and liaison with the Company Security Officer (CSO) and Port Facility Security Officers (PFSO).

**ISPS Code** means the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code adopted by Resolution 2 of the Conference of Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as may be amended by the Organization.

**3. New Requirements**

This new Regulation requires, in addition to the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act 2006 (MSA 2006), Sections 150(1)(b) and 153(1) and the Antigua and Barbuda administrative Circulars 02 002-03, 02 003-03 and 02 004-03, that every candidate for a certificate of proficiency as SSO shall :

- .1 have approved seagoing service of not less than 12 months or appropriate seagoing service and knowledge of ship operations, and
- .2 meet the standards of competence for certification of proficiency as SSO set out in section A-VI/5 and table A-VI/5 of the STCW-Code.

**4. Responsibilities of Companies**

Compliance with the new mandatory competence requirements related to the SSO according to section A-VI/5 and table A-VI/5 of the STCW-Code is in accordance with Section 150(1) of the MSA 2006 and in the responsibility of the company.

## 5. Transitional Provisions

Determining professional competence for *existing* SSOs who hold or can document qualifications before the entry into force of this new regulation shall be established by:

- .1 approved seagoing service as a SSO for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years, **or**
- .2 having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required in 5.1, **or**
- .3 passing an approved test, **or**
- .4 successfully completed approved training (i.e. IMO model course 3.19)

## 6. Flag State Endorsements

In order to recognize certificates of proficiency for SSOs, issued by or under the authority of another Party, Regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention stipulates that each Administration shall ensure that an “undertaking is agreed with the Party concerned”. These undertakings are in place with the understanding that also the future certificates of proficiency for SSOs are covered by these undertakings.

Certificates of Proficiency issued by national maritime administrations in accordance with Regulation VI/5 of the STCW Convention will be endorsed by the Flag State Administration of Antigua and Barbuda as of 01 January 2008. All Ships registered under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda must have on board a Ship Security Officer and an alternate.

Until 01 July 2009 Antigua and Barbuda will continue to recognize personnel who hold or can document qualifications as ship security officers before the entry into force of this regulation.

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**Department of Marine Services  
and Merchant Shipping  
Antigua and Barbuda W.I.**

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