

Oldenburg, February 2002

INFORMATION LETTER 002-2002
to

**all Owners, Managing Owners, Filing Agents and Crewing Companies
operating ships and crew under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda**

<u>Subject:</u>	1. IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE STCW 95 2. TONNAGE DUES IN RUSSIAN PORTS
<u>Reference:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 78, amended 95 (STCW), STCW.7/Circ. 12 25 Jan. 2002 Press release of Paris MOU on Port State Control 2. Russian Federation - Order No. 1236 dated 26 Nov. 2001 of Ministry of Antimonopoly Politics and Business Support

1. The implementation deadline, 1 Feb. 2002, for the requirements of STCW 95 has been fixed by the International Maritime Organisation in 1996. Considering that many seafarers did not yet obtain the certificates issued in accordance with STCW 95 prior 1 Feb. 2002, the IMO STW Sub-Committee on STCW has suggested, that until 31 July 2002, port State control officers issue a warning only if the certification of the seafarer complies with the requirements immediately before 1 Feb. 2002 and is not in accordance with the requirements of STCW 95. The warning will be addressed to the shipping companies concerned as well as to the seafarer. The flag State will be informed accordingly.

According to a press release of Paris MOU on Port State Control it will take account of the recommendations of the IMO STW Sub-Committee and will issue a Letter of Warning until 31 July 2002. Details of ships will be published on the web site of Paris MOU and the ship will be subject to priority inspection. After 31 July 2002 the ship may be detained if the documentation of the crew does not comply with the requirements of STCW 95.

The flag State Administration of Antigua and Barbuda will, after receipt of applications for seafarer's documents which are based on national documents issued immediately before 1 Feb. 2002, continue to issue Certificates of Receipt of Application, valid for a period of three months. No Certificates of Receipt of Application will be issued for Certificates of Competency according to STCW 78 after the 31 July 2002.

2. Antigua and Barbuda is glad to inform all shipoperators, that vessels flying its flag will no longer be charged in Russian ports under a two-tier dues system.

The two-tier tonnage due system, putting owners and shipping companies operating ships under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda in an unviable financial position when being charged the higher tonnage dues in ports of Russia for many years, has been abrogated according to Order No. 1236, dated 26 November 2001 of Ministry of Antimonopoly Politics and Business Support since 1 January 2002.

According to the order, flat rates, called as reduced rates in "Port due rates in the sea trade ports of the Russian Federation" (1995), will be collected from Russian vessels in the foreign trade and foreign vessels, irrespective of the flag, from 1 January 2002.

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