B021 – BMSR Flag State Endorsement and Seaman's Record Books

Barbados Maritime Ship Registry

Revision No:	3.1	Issue Date:	06 Oct 2026	Effective Date:	06 Oct 2026

Notice to: Shipowners, Operators, Officers, Flag State Inspectors and Recognised Organisations.

1. References

a) Barbados Merchant Shipping Act, 2024
b) The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, (STCW Convention)
c) The Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code)
d) MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.14 Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, confirmed by the Maritime Safety Committee to have communicated information which demonstrates that full and complete effect is given to the relevant provisions of the Convention
e) B014 - Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services
f) PPS01-F01 Application for Flag State Endorsement and Seaman's Record Book
g) Circular Letter No.5019 - Communication From The Kingdom Of The Netherlands (Secretariat) - Notification on fraudulent activities

2. Definitions

2.1 Certificate of Competency (COC)" means a certificate, issued, and endorsed by an STCW Convention Party for masters, officers and GMDSS radio operators in accordance with the provisions of Chapters II, III, IV or VII of the STCW Code and entitling the lawful holder thereof to serve in the capacity and perform the functions involved at the level of responsibility specified therein.

2.2 "Certificate of Proficiency (COP)" means a certificate, other than a certificate of competency issued by STCW Convention Party to a seafarer, stating that the relevant requirements of training, competencies or seagoing service in the Convention have been met.

2.3 "Flag State Endorsement (FSE)" means a valid document that attests the recognition of a certificate issued by a STCW Convention Party in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Convention I/10, to acknowledge that a holder has the right to occupy a position on board of a Barbadian vessel.

2.4 "Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Service (SRPS)" is any person, Company or other body engaged in the recruitment of seafarers on behalf of shipowners or the placement of seafarers with shipowners.

3. Purpose

3.1 This Bulletin is to provide:

.1 The list of Administrations whose COCs and COPs are recognised by the BMSR under STCW Convention Regulation 1/10 and the list of relevant FSEs issued by the BMSR;

.2 To describe the application and issuance process of FSEs and Seaman's Record Books (SRB) for seafarers working on Barbadian vessels through the BMSR online platform Seafarer HQ (SHQ) system.

4. BMSR FSEs

4.1 The list in Table 1, as per STCW Code Part B, Chapter I Table B-1/2, identifies all certificates that have to be addressed by the BMSR for seafarer who works on Barbadian vessels.

Table 1 - List of BMSR FSEs

STCW Regulations	Type of certificate	Seafarer
II/1, II/2, II/3, III/1, III/2, III/3, III/6, IV/2, VII/2	COC	• Masters, officers and GMDSS radio operators
V/1-1, V/1-2	COP for Basic and Advanced training for oil and chemical or liquefied gas tanker cargo operations	• Officers assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on board tankers • Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers and any officer with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on board tankers
VI/5	COP for Ship Security Officer (SSO)	• Any seafarer designated as SSO
HSC Code Sec. 18.3	Type Rating Certificate (TRC)	• The Master and all officers having an operational role serving on High Speed Craft (HSC), including Hovercraft

5. Application for Barbadian FSEs

5.1 Applications for Barbados FSEs are not accepted from individuals and shall be submitted by a SRPS, the company appointed by the vessel owners engaged in the employment, recruitment, or selection of persons for service on Barbados vessels.

5.2 SRPSs mentioned in Sec. 5.1 above are appointed as per B014 - Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services.

5.3 All seafarer applications shall be submitted via the BMSR SHQ. Once the application is submitted, a Confirmation of Receipt of Application (CRA) can be downloaded by the person submitting the application.

5.4 The Documents required along with the application form are:

.1 Valid passport;

.2 Medical Certificate (issued as per Sec. A-I/9 of STCW Code);

.3 National COC and COP;

.4 Recent Passport Size photo.

5.5 Details regarding applicable fees are provided on BMSR website: https://barbadosmaritime.org/registration/registration-fees/

5.6 Seafarers are permitted to serve on a Barbados vessel as soon as they have the CRA. The CRA is valid only for 3 months and cannot be extended.

5.7 The application shall be submitted for both FSE and SRB uploading PPS01-F01 on SHQ. Applicants need to submit the listed documentation along with the application for the process to commence.

5.8 The validity of the FSEs corresponds to the expiry date of the applicant's National COCs and COPs. Where only the issue date is noted, BMSR will accept a validity of two years for individuals up to 65 and one year for those older than 65. For individuals over 65, an FSE will only be issued with a validity of one year, and it will only be renewed each year upon receipt of a new medical certificate.

5.9 Where an officer's additional qualification consists of a separate CoC not recorded on the CoC submitted for recognition under STCW Regulations I/10, this additional qualification, if required and practicable, will be noted on the FSE. While recording the additional qualification, the validity of the FSE will still be issued based on the national COC's validity.

5.10 The issuing Administration may record the GMDSS qualification in one of two ways.

.1 The GMDSS can be included on the issuing Administration's COC document, in which case the expiry of the FSE is the date given on the issuing Administration's COC document.

.2 A separate Certificate of Competency issued for the GMDSS qualification. A separate FSE is issued (for which an additional charge is applied) using the validity as per the issuing Administration GMDSS document.

5.11 Medical Certificates are acceptable only when issued in accordance with the provisions of STCW Sec. A-I/9 of STCW Code by Administrations having IMO (White list) recognition as listed in MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.14 or by approved BMSR medical practitioners.

5.12 Confirmation of the applicant's identity, whether for a FSE or an SRB, is done by the following actions:

a. The Crew Officer has to check that the information uploaded on SHQ is correct, verify on national websites and then issue FSEs as per PPS01-F01**;**

b. The applying company's Declaration of Authenticity is included in PPS01-F01**,** is signed and stamped by the Seafarer Agent; and Personal details entered on SHQ are cross-matched with PPS01-F01.

6. Verification of Seafarer Documentation by Third Parties

6.1 Third parties may carry out verification of Seafarer Documentation by accessing the "Validate a Document" on the BMSR website https://portal.barbadosmaritime.org/certificate_validators or by scanning the barcode printed on each document.

6.2 Following Circular Letter No.5019 dated 06 May 2025, despite Sint Maarten being listed in MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.14 the BMSR does not accept COCs issued under the name of Sint Maarten.

7. Administrations recognised by the BMSR

7.1 The list of Administrations whose COCs and COPs are recognised by the BMSR, under STCW Convention Regulation 1/10 and based on MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.14 , is outlined in the table 2 below.

Table 2 - Administrations recognised by the BMSR

ARGENTINA	AUSTRALIA	AZERBAIJAN	THE BAHAMAS
BANGLADESH	BELGIUM	BELIZE	BRAZIL
BULGARIA	CANADA	CAPE VERDE	CHILE
CHINA	CROATIA	CUBA	CYPRUS
CZECH REPUBLIC	DENMARK	DOMINICA	EGYPT
ESTONIA	ETHIOPIA	FIJI ISLANDS	FINLAND
FRANCE	GEORGIA	GERMANY	GHANA
GREECE	HONDURAS	HONG KONG	HUNGARY
ICELAND	INDIA	INDONESIA	IRAN
IRELAND	ISRAEL	ITALY	JAMAICA
JORDAN	KOREAN REPUBLIC	LATVIA	LEBANON
LIBERIA	LITHUANIA	MEXICO	MONTENEGRO
MYANMAR	NETHERLANDS (including Curacao)	NEW ZEALAND	NORWAY
PAKISTAN	PANAMA	PHILIPPINES	POLAND
PORTUGAL	ROMANIA	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	SERBIA
SINGAPORE	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	SLOVENIA	SOUTH AFRICA
SPAIN	SRI LANKA	SWEDEN	TANZANIA
THAILAND	THE COOK ISLANDS	TURKEY	UKRAINE
UNITED KINGDOM	URUGUAY	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	VIETNAM

Revision No	Description Of Revision
1.0	First issue – Supersedes Information Bulletin 350 Added Tanzania
1.1	Amended table in sec 4.1, added row for TRC
2.0	General revision, rewritten.
3.0	Amended Title and name of Table 1, Added name Table 2 Amended Sec 1.e/1.f/ 2.2/2.3/3.1.1/3.1.2/4/4.1/5/5.1/5.2/5.7/5.8/5.9/5.10.1/5.10.2/5.12/7.1/
3.1	Update on MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.14 Amended Sec. 5.11/6.2/7.1