



**STCW AMENDMENTS – ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES AND UPDATED PSSR
(NMA_C68.2026.Rev.0)**

(a) DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

1. “CoC/CoP” – Certificate of Competency / Certificate of Proficiency.
2. “PSSR” – Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities
3. “RO” – Recognized Organization as defined by MSC.349(92) / MEPC.237(65)

The following terms shall mean:

1. “Administration” – the Nauru Maritime Administration.
2. “STCW ” – the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.
3. “STCW Code” – the Seafarers’ Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended.
4. “Basic Training (BT)” – the mandatory training in personal survival techniques, fire prevention and fire-fighting, elementary first aid, and personal safety and social responsibilities (PSSR) as per STCW Code Table A-VI/1
5. “New entrants” – The seafarer who is attending the BT for the first time after 01 January 2026.
6. “Existing seafarers” – The seafarer who attended the BT before 01 January 2026.
7. “Certificate Verification Index” – A system that records and logs all verification attempts, even if online verification fails (e.g., poor internet access)

(b) PURPOSE:

This Circular informs all concerned parties such as Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers and Ratings of:

1. Acceptance of electronic STCW certificates and endorsements; and
2. Implementation of the revised PSSR competence, including prevention and response to violence and harassment.

(c) REFERENCES:

1. IMO Resolution MSC.540(107), Amendments to the STCW Convention (electronic certification)
2. IMO Resolution MSC.541(107), Amendments to the STCW Code, Section A-I/2 (minimum data for electronic certification)

3. IMO Resolution MSC.560(108), Amendments to the STCW Code, Table A-VI/1-4 (personal safety and social responsibilities – prevention and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault)

(d) APPLICATION:

1. This Circular applies to:
 - 1.1. All Nauru-flagged ships;
 - 1.2. All ROs acting on behalf of the Administration for STCW-related functions;
 - 1.3. Seafarers serving, or intending to serve, on Nauru-flagged ships.
2. The provisions relating to “Electronic Certificates” in Section 1 of CONTENTS are applicable and effective from **01 January 2025**.
3. The provisions relating to “Updated PSSR Competence” in Section 2 of CONTENTS are applicable from 01 January 2026 but not later than **31 December 2026**.

(e) CONTENTS:

- 1. Electronic Certificates (Effective from 1 January 2025):**
 - 1.1. Nauru accepts original CoCs, CoPs and endorsements in electronic form, provided that they can be verified via a secure website, QR code or similar system (i.e., email, etc)
 - 1.2. Ships should:
 - 1.2.1. Keep electronic certificates readily accessible on board (e.g., in a dedicated folder or system); and
 - 1.2.2. Maintain a simple Certificate Verification List for each seafarer stating name, type of certificate, number, issuing Administration, issue/expiry date and verification link/QR.
 - 1.3. Paper originals remain acceptable where electronic certificates are not available.
- 2. Updated PSSR Competence (Effective from 1 January 2026)**
 - 2.1. The revised PSSR table adds specific knowledge and skills for preventing and responding to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault.
 - 2.2. Applicability
 - 2.2.1. **New entrants** to basic training completed on or after 1 January 2026 must be trained and assessed to the updated table so far as practicable.

2.2.2. **Existing seafarers** who hold valid Basic Training (BT) are deemed compliant; the Administration, however, **recommends** targeted familiarization or gap-training addressing the new elements, to be completed by the next BT revalidation or by **31 December 2026**.

2.2.3. All seafarers shall hold a BT certificate compliant with the new PSSR training requirements by **31 December 2026**.

2.3. Company/Shipboard measures shall:

2.3.1. Integrate zero-tolerance policies and reporting into the Ship's SMS and Shipboard Familiarization.

2.3.2. Ensure Master conducts onboard training of PSSR for the existing seafarers and record it for the PSC or FSI inspection; and

2.3.3. Provide access to confidential reporting channels and post contact information (company DPA, HR and relevant helplines) in crew common areas.

3. RO and PSC/FSI Guidance

3.1. ROs shall align endorsement/recognition procedures and audit checklists to accept electronic originals and to verify the presence of the Certificate Verification Index onboard.

3.2. Flag State Inspectors should verify:

3.2.1. accessibility and verifiability of electronic certificates;

3.2.2. evidence that training providers used by the company are updating BT/PSSR materials; and

3.2.3. SMS integration of anti-violence/harassment measures

4. Documentation Onboard

4.1. Ships shall retain the following, in hard copy or electronic form:

4.1.1. This marine circular;

4.1.2. Certificate Verification Index;

4.1.3. Evidence of crew briefing/familiarization on the updated PSSR elements (e.g., safety meeting minutes, training log entries, etc.); and

- 4.1.4. If applicable, the training provider's letter or course completion record indicating the updated PSSR coverage.

Seafarers serving on board Nauru ships shall be required to comply with the requirements of STCW, ensuring their safety and security, and the protection of the marine environment.

For further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Administration at:
seafarer@naurumaritime.com.