

Familiarization with Botswana Maritime Affairs



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Botswana shipowners, operators, and seafarers are advised to become familiar with Botswana's maritime legislation, regulations, marine safety circulars, and directives. Compliance is required to ensure safe and effective ship operations and the protection of the marine environment.

These requirements apply to shipowners, operators, masters, and chief mates sailing vessels of 500 gross tonnage or more, as well as to chief engineers and first assistant engineers.

On September 6th, 2010, the Botswana International Maritime Act 2010 was passed in Parliament, formally establishing the country's commitment to a maritime administration. Botswana maintains a fleet that adheres to high standards, reflecting its reputation for responsibility and quality under the flag.

To date, Botswana has ratified membership in the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
International Maritime Organization

A national body of implementing regulations has been developed to align with IMO obligations and treaty requirements.

Holders of valid certificates issued by States fully applying the provisions of the STCW Convention, 1978 (as amended), must familiarize themselves with Botswana's maritime legislation relevant to their duties.

For management-level ship's officers, the following publications are required reading:

BTW-103, Familiarization with National Maritime Legislation

BTW-101, International Maritime Act 2000

BTS-102, Maritime Regulations

Applicants for Botswana certificates must certify that they understand these requirements and will comply. Copies of BTS-103, BTS-101, and BTS-102 are provided by the Administration with the issuance of a certificate.

Shipowners, operators, masters, chief mates, chief engineers, and first assistant engineers must take the necessary steps to ensure these requirements are met and that the policies in those publications are followed.