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Circular Letter No.4594
1 July 2022

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland sent the attached communication, dated 1 July 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

ANNEX



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Permanent Representative
of the UK to the IMO

Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Secretary-General

International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7SR

www.gov.uk/mca

1 July 2022

Dear Secretary-General

**Issuing of STCW Yachtmaster Certificates of Competency by the
Montserrat Yachting Association**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would like to draw attention to the above issue which has been raised by the British Maritime Administration of Montserrat.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the IMO that that the Montserrat Yachting Association (MYA) has no connection with the Montserrat Maritime Administration (as part of the group of British Registries) and has no authority to issue any ship or crew documentation on behalf of, or pertaining to be linked with, the British flag administration of Montserrat. It does not have the United Kingdom's authority to issue STCW Certificates of Competency.

Over the last few years, a number of crewing agents have requested verification of STCW Certificates of Competency issued by the MYA. Montserrat is a British Overseas Territory, and the Montserrat Ship Registry is a constituent part of the wider UK Flag State, collectively known as the Red Ensign Group (REG). The UK and the Montserrat Maritime Administration confirms that the STCW Convention has not been extended to Montserrat and therefore the issue of any STCW certificates of competencies issued in relation to Montserrat are being issued contrary to the convention, noting that STCW certificates can only be issued by contracting governments.

The MYA is a private organisation which has been set up in Montserrat, and despite having no link or authorisation from the Montserrat Maritime Administration or Montserrat Government, is offering a number of services for registration of yachts and the issue of seafarer certification.

There is a possibility that the MYA is misrepresenting themselves as being associated with the Montserrat Maritime Administration and the wider Red Ensign Group. The logo and the use of the Red Ensign image can be misleading and it could be interpreted as a certificate endorsed by the Montserrat, the UK or the REG.



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It has recently been confirmed that the Montserrat Yachting Association is issuing a number of Certificates of Competency for Yacht Master Ocean/Chief Engineer – Motor and Sailing Yachts of varying limitations, please see Annex A. This matter is being further investigated by the Government of Montserrat.

We would be most grateful if the Secretariat could assist in the dissemination of this letter to IMO member states, NGOs, IGOs, and other interested parties through the usual way.

Please accept my highest assurances.

Yours sincerely



Katy Ware
Permanent Representative of the UK to the IMO
Director of UK Maritime Services



ANNEX A: Copies of Certificates of Competency issued by the Montserrat Yachting Association

