

Guidelines for Application of Qualification Recognition as Port Facility Security Officer

Background

Pursuant to the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) Circular No.1188 issued on 22 May 2006, persons who have either satisfactorily completed an approved course based on the IMO Model Course 3.21 on Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO), or who have attended a course based on the relevant knowledge, understanding and proficiency should be considered as having met the training requirements for services as a PFSO. The Circular further required that those persons should be provided with documentary evidence to certify that they possess the qualification for serving as a PFSO.

This guidelines is developed for persons who have completed the local PFSO training courses prior to the coming into force of the MSC Circular.

In future, the certificates issued by the approved PFSO training course providers, including overseas providers approved by the respective SOLAS Contracting Governments, are recognized documentary proofs. Holders of these certificates will not be required to obtain qualification recognition from the Director of Marine.

Training/Experience Requirements

Applicants should have :-

(i) satisfactory completed the PFSO training course conducted in 2003 jointly by the Securicor Hong Kong Limited and the SeaSecure LLC and with not less than six months of working experience as PFSO or Deputy PFSO in a designated port facility; or

(ii) satisfactory completed the PFSO training course conducted by the Institute of Seatransport in February 2006.

Application Procedures

Applications for a documentary proof as meeting the training requirements for serving as a PFSO should be submitted in writing to the Director of Marine, for the attention of Port Security Administration Section, together with the supporting documents listed below.

Operators of designated port facilities may also apply on behalf of their staff with their consensus.

Supporting Documents

- (i) a photo copy of the course certificate;
- (ii) a photo copy of the applicant's identity document; and
- (iii) proof of relevant experience issued by the applicant's employer, if applicable.

Assessment

All applications will be verified with records kept by the Marine Department. Verification with the applicant's employer on working experience will be conducted as and when required.

Issue of Documentary Proof

Successful applicants will be issued with a letter certifying their qualification as a PFSO.

Validity

The recognized qualification would have a validity of 5 years counted from the date of issue of the original certificate. The validity could be extended when accompanied with evidence showing that the applicant has been in service as a PFSO or Deputy PFSO of a designated port facility for at least 12 months in the preceding 5-year period.

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Marine Department

Hong Kong SAR Government