

# Endorsement of recognition of a foreign General Operator's' Certificate for service on board merchant vessels under the German flag

## Leaflet for the Application

The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) in Hamburg issues endorsements of recognition for foreign General Operator's Certificates.

Application forms can be obtained from the BSH Bernhard-Nocht-Strasse 78 in D-20359 Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany or per email under [Zeugnisse@bsh.de](mailto:Zeugnisse@bsh.de). Information concerning applications can be found in Internet under <http://www.bsh.de/>.

The following documents, either in original or as certified copies, should be enclosed with the application form:

- The valid General Operator's Certificate and any other Radio Operator's Certificates for which the endorsement of recognition is to be attested
- A valid medical fitness certificate ( Certificates of medical fitness which have been issued by competent agencies of EU-/EWR-states may be accepted, if they are not older than three months.  
Certificates of medical fitness from other countries apart from EU-/EWR-states can only be recognised if they have been issued by doctors authorised by the German Seeberufsgenossenschaft. A list of these authorised doctors can be found on the following homepage: [www.see-bg.de/seeberufsgenossenschaft/adressen](http://www.see-bg.de/seeberufsgenossenschaft/adressen))
- A copy of the applicant's valid identity card or passport
- A recent photograph (with the applicant's name on the rear side), "scanned" photographs are not normally accepted. Only under special circumstances and if the printout is on suitable photographic paper.
- A duly completed Direct Debit Authorisation form, see page 3 of the application form (the fee for each General Operator's Certificate is € 50)

If there are any further queries, the BSH can be contacted under the following telephone number (0 40) 3190-7125  
or per email under the following email address: [www.zeugnisse@bsh.de](mailto:www.zeugnisse@bsh.de).

### **General Details:**

Only the original documents or copies with a certified declaration of origin can be accepted for an endorsement of recognition.

Authentication of certified copies is provided by German consulates or embassies in foreign countries or by lawfully appointed notaries in Germany and by the German Shipping Office (Seemannsamt) in Hamburg.

Please note that the confirmation of validity with the issuing flag state cannot be done within 24 hours, in fact it usually takes much longer.

It is therefore advisable to ensure that all seafarers, before joining your company have all their documents valid and ready, prior to signing on. Then any certificates necessary can be promptly issued. The prevention and exposure of any fraudulent use of certificates of competency is also easier.