.24 *Function* means a group of tasks, duties and responsibilities, as specified in the STCW-F Code, necessary for fishing vessel operation, safety of life at sea or protection of the marine environment;

.25 *Fishing training vessel* means a dedicated training vessel, designed for catching and storing fish, which provides a training opportunity for demonstration and assessment of the competences required by the provisions of chapter II of this annex;

.26 *GMDSS radio operator* means a person who is qualified in accordance with the provisions of regulation II/6 of the Convention;

.27 *Certificate of competency* means a certificate issued and endorsed for skippers, officers and GMDSS radio operators in accordance with the provisions of chapter II of this annex and entitling the lawful holder thereof to serve in the capacity and perform the functions involved at the level of responsibility specified therein; and

.28 *Certificate of proficiency* means a certificate, other than a certificate of competency issued to fishing vessel personnel, stating that the relevant requirements of training, competencies or seagoing service in the Convention have been met.

2 These regulations are supplemented by the mandatory provisions contained in part A of the STCW-F Code and:

.1 any reference to a requirement in a regulation also constitutes a reference to the corresponding section of part A of the STCW-F Code;

.2 in applying these regulations, the related guidance and explanatory material contained in part B of the STCW-F Code should be taken into account to the greatest degree possible in order to achieve a more uniform implementation of the Convention provisions on a global basis;

.3 amendments to part A of the STCW-F Code shall be adopted, brought into force and take effect in accordance with the provisions of article 10 of the Convention concerning the amendment procedure applicable to the annex; and

.4 part B of the STCW-F Code shall be amended by the Maritime Safety Committee in accordance with its rules of procedure.

**Regulation I/2**
*Application*

1 The Administration of a Party, if it considers it unreasonable or impracticable to apply the full requirements of regulations II/3, II/4 and II/5-1-1, II/5-1-2 or II/5-2 and the requirement of the use of the English language to personnel serving on board a fishing vessel of less than 45 metres in length operating exclusively from its ports and fishing within its limited waters, may determine which of these regulations should not apply, wholly or in part, to such personnel, without derogation from the principles of safety in the Convention. In such a case, the Administration concerned shall report to the Secretary-General on the details of the measures it has taken with respect to the training and certification of such personnel.

2 For the purpose of this Convention, the Administration may decide to use the following gross tonnage in place of length (L) as the basis for measurement for all chapters:

.1 a gross tonnage of 300 shall be considered equivalent to a length (L) of 24 metres; and

.2 a gross tonnage of 950 shall be considered equivalent to a length (L) of 45 metres.

**Regulation I/3**
*Certificates and endorsements*

1 Certificates of competency for fishing vessel personnel shall only be issued by the Administration if the requirements for service, age, medical fitness, training, qualification and examinations are met in accordance with these regulations.

2 A certificate of competency issued by a Party in compliance with paragraph 1 shall be endorsed by that Party attesting the issue of that certificate in the form as prescribed in format 1 or 2 of section A-I/3 of the STCW-F Code.

3 Certificates and endorsements shall be issued in the official language or languages of the issuing country. If the language used is not English, the text shall include a translation into that language.

4 In respect of radio operators, Parties may:

.1 include the additional knowledge required by regulation II/6 in the examination for the issue of a certificate complying with the Radio Regulations; or

.2 issue a separate certificate indicating that the holder has the additional knowledge required by regulation II/6.

5 The Administration which has recognized a certificate issued by or under the authority of another Party in compliance with regulation I/7 shall issue an endorsement attesting the recognition of that certificate in the form prescribed in format 3 of section A-I/3 of the STCW-F Code.

6 The endorsement shall expire as soon as the certificate endorsed expires or is withdrawn, suspended or cancelled by the Party which issued it and, in any case, not more than five years after the date of issue.

7 Appropriate certificates of competency issued under the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention for the holder to serve as a chief engineer officer, an engineer officer or GMDSS radio operator shall be deemed to be a corresponding certificate for the purposes of paragraph 1 with regard to fishing vessels.

8 Medical certificates issued in accordance with the provisions of regulation I/9 of the 1978 STCW Convention shall be accepted as valid for the personnel of fishing vessels.

9 Subject to the variations permitted under formats 1, 2 and 3 of section A-I/3 of the STCW-F Code, Administrations may use a format different from the format given in the section provided that such format contains, as a minimum, the required information and that the particulars are inserted in Roman characters and Arabic figures.