3 A Party may, within two years after entry into force of the Convention for that Party, issue a certificate of service to fishing vessel personnel who hold neither an appropriate certificate under the Convention nor a certificate of competency issued under its laws before entry into force of the Convention for that Party but who have:

.1 served in the capacity for which they seek a certificate of service for not less than three years at sea within the last seven years preceding entry into force of the Convention for that Party;

.2 produced evidence that they have performed that service satisfactorily; and

.3 satisfied the Party as to medical fitness, including eyesight and hearing, taking into account their age at the time of application.

For the purpose of the Convention, a certificate of service issued under this paragraph shall be regarded as the equivalent of a certificate issued under the Convention.

**Regulation I/9**
*Dispensation*

1 In circumstances of exceptional necessity, an Administration, if in its opinion this will not cause danger to persons, property or the environment, may issue a dispensation permitting a person to serve in a specified fishing vessel for a specified period not exceeding six months in a capacity, other than that of the radio operator, except as provided by the relevant Radio Regulations, for which the person does not hold the appropriate certificate, provided that the person to whom the dispensation is issued shall be adequately qualified to fill the vacant post in a safe manner, to the satisfaction of the Administration.

2 Any dispensation granted for a post shall be granted only to a person properly certificated to fill the post immediately below it. Where certification of the post below is not required by the Convention, a dispensation may be issued to a person whose competence and experience are, in the opinion of the Administration, clearly equivalent to the requirements for the post to be filled, provided that, if such a person holds no appropriate certificate, the person shall be required to pass a test accepted by the Administration as demonstrating that such a dispensation may safely be issued. In addition, the Administration shall ensure that the post in question is filled by the holder of an appropriate certificate as soon as possible.

3 Each Party shall, as soon as possible after 1 January each year, send a report to the Secretary-General giving information of the total number of dispensations in respect of each capacity for which a certificate is required, including nil returns.

**Regulation I/10**
*Equivalents*

1 The Convention shall not prevent a Party from retaining or adopting other educational and training arrangements, including those involving seagoing service and shipboard organization especially adapted to technical developments and to special types of vessels, provided that the level of seagoing service, knowledge and efficiency as regards navigational and technical handling of vessels ensures a degree of safety at sea and has a preventive effect as regards pollution at least equivalent to the requirements of the Convention.

2 Details of such arrangements shall be included in the report under article 4.

**Regulation I/11**
*Use of simulators*

1 The performance standards and other provisions set forth in section A-I/11 and such other requirements as are prescribed in part A of the STCW-F Code for any certificate concerned shall be complied with in respect of:

.1 all simulator-based training;

.2 any assessment of competency required by part A of the STCW-F Code which is carried out by means of a simulator; and

.3 any demonstration, by means of a simulator, of continued proficiency required by part A of the STCW-F Code.

**Regulation I/12**
*Medical standards*

1 Each Party shall establish standards of medical fitness for fishing vessel personnel and procedures for the issue of a medical certificate in accordance with the provisions of this regulation and of section A-I/12 of the STCW-F Code.

2 Each Party shall ensure that those responsible for assessing the medical fitness of fishing vessel personnel are medical practitioners recognized by the Party for the purpose of fishing vessel personnel medical examinations, in accordance with the provisions of section A-I/12 of the STCW-F Code.

3 Every crew member holding a certificate issued under the provisions of the Convention who is serving at sea shall also hold a valid medical certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of this regulation and of section A-I/12 of the STCW-F Code.

4 Every candidate for certification shall:

.1 be not less than 16 years of age; or

.2 be not less than 15 years of age provided that the candidate is authorized by the competent authority in accordance with national laws and practice;

.3 provide satisfactory proof of his or her identity; and

.4 meet the applicable medical fitness standards established by the Party.

5 Medical certificates shall remain valid for a maximum period of two years unless the crew member is under the age of 18, in which case the maximum period of validity shall be one year.

6 If the period of validity of a medical certificate expires in the course of a voyage, then the medical certificate shall continue in force until the next port of call where a medical practitioner recognized by the Party is available, provided that the period shall not exceed three months.