

International Maritime Organisation  
C/o Maritime Training and Human Element  
Subdivision for Operational Safety and Human Element  
Maritime Safety Division  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR  
United Kingdom

Reykjavík, 22.12.2017

**Our ref.: 1604482/1**

**Subject: Information on independent evaluations communicated to the Secretary-General by the Republic of Iceland pursuant to STCW regulation I/8 and section A-I/7 of the STCW Code.**

Reference is made to Regulation I/8 of the Convention and Section A-I/8 on independent evaluations, as well as Section A-I/7 on communication of information.

[Vottun, Ltd.](#), a recognised accreditation and a quality standard body, has on behalf of the Icelandic Transport Authority been assigned to undertake and be responsible for an independent evaluation in accordance with provisions of STCW Regulation I/8, Section A-I/8 of the Code and taking note of provisions in Section B-I/8. Vottun, Ltd. was tasked to undertake four different independent assessments of the effectiveness of the quality standard arrangements to cover all national obligation as provided for in IMO's "non-exhaustive list of obligations under instruments relevant to the III Code (Resolution A.1070(29))" pertaining to the STCW requirements.

Section B-I/8, paragraph 7, provides explicitly that in case of an education or training establishment, a recognized quality standards body or Government body should be used. With this requirement in mind, it was considered most appropriate to divide the evaluation into four parts.

The first evaluation session addressed the STCW requirements with respect to the overall scope of obligations as defined in IMO's "non-exhaustive list of obligations under instruments relevant to the III Code (Resolution A.1070(29))" pertaining to the STCW requirements regarding Certification, i.e. the functions and obligations of the Icelandic Transport Authority.

**The audit team members:**

Kjartan J. Kárason, Director of Vottun, Ltd (see CV) Audit Team Leader  
Guðjón Ármann Einarsson, master mariner (see CV)

The second evaluation session addressed the activities and obligations of the maritime training institute Tækniskólinn. This evaluation was split into two parts, i.e. a) auditing the education and training against approved course plan in force, b) auditing the quality management system.

**Audit team members:**

Kjartan J. Kárason, Director of Vottun, Ltd (see CV), Audit Team Leader  
Ólafur J. Briem, naval architect (see CV)  
Sverrir Konráðsson, navigating officer (see CV)

The third evaluation session addressed the activities and obligations of Akureyri Comprehensive College, Verkmenntaskólinn á Akureyri, VMA. This evaluation was split into two parts, i.e. a) auditing the education and training against approved course plan in force, b) auditing the quality management system.

**Audit team members:**

Kjartan J. Kárason, Director of Vottun, Ltd (see CV), Audit Team Leader  
Ólafur J. Briem, naval architect (see CV)  
Sverrir Konráðsson, navigating officer (see CV)

The fourth evaluation session addressed the activities and obligation of the Survival and Safety training Centre, SSTC, in Reykjavík. This evaluation was split in two parts, i.e. a) auditing the education and training against approved course plan in force, b) auditing the quality management system.

**Audit team members:**

Kjartan J. Kárason, Director of Vottun, Ltd (see CV), Audit Team Leader  
Ólafur j. Briem, naval architect (see CV)  
Snæbjörn Tr Össurason, master mariner (see CV)

Rectification of the deficiencies detected during the independent evaluation of Tækniskólinn, VMA and SSTC is in progress.

Rectification of the deficiencies detected during the independent evaluation of the operations of the Icelandic Transport Authority is also in progress. Regarding the obligations outlined in IMO's "non-exhaustive list of obligations under instruments relevant to the III Code (Resolution A.1070(29))", the relevant rectification measures are pending awaiting the new national course plan for maritime studies to be evaluated and approved.

**Quality system certificates**

Please find enclosed the quality system certificates issued by Vottun hf., which is the accredited quality organization that carries out the independent evaluations (audits):

- Icelandic Transport Authority certification system (formerly the Icelandic Maritime Administration);
- the Technical College Reykjavík (Icel. Tækniskólinn, navigation and marine engineering studies;
- Akureyri Comprehensive College (Icel. Verkmenntaskólinn á Akureyri, VMA), marine engineering studies;
- Maritime Safety and Survival Training Centre - MSSTC) (Icel. Slysavarnaskóli sjómanna, seafarers' safety and survival training.

The certification system of the Administration and the maritime training institutes are evaluated every six months by independent evaluators on the basis of the ISO 9001 Quality Control System.

**The results of independent evaluations (audits):**

**The Technical College Reykjavík**

The Technical College Reykjavík Iceland commenced a certification process pursuant to the ISO 9001 standard in October 2003 and turned in its first operational manual to Vottun hf. in June 2004. The quality system certificate issued to the Technical College Reykjavík on 20 November 2015, expiry date 18 August 2017 by Vottun hf. is enclosed.

**The Akureyri Comprehensive College**

The Technical College Reykjavík is a base school for the Akureyri Comprehensive College which operates under the quality system of the Technical College Reykjavík.

The Akureyri Comprehensive College commenced a certification process pursuant to the ISO 9001 standard 2007 and was initially reviewed on 9 February 2007. The quality system certificate issued to the Akureyri Comprehensive College on 15 March 2016, expiry date 1 October 2018 by Vottun hf. is enclosed.

**The Maritime Safety and Survival Training Centre (MSSTC) (Icel. Slysavarnaskóli sjómanna)**


The MSSTC commenced a certification process pursuant to the ISO 9001 standard in February 2000 and the first audit was finalized by Vottun hf. on 17 February 2005. The quality system certificate issued to the MSSTC on 10 March 2016, expiry date 17 August 2017 by Vottun hf. is enclosed.

**The Icelandic Transport Authority (ICETRA)**

The Icelandic Transport Authority (Samgöngustofa, formerly Icelandic Maritime Administration) commenced a certification process pursuant to the ISO 9001 standard in early May 2005 and subsequently the certification process was finalized with another audit by Vottun hf. on 15 September 2005. The quality system certificate issued to the Icelandic Transport Authority on 30 April 2016, expiry date 16 March 2018 by Vottun hf. is enclosed. The last evaluation of the certification system took place in December 2015.

If any further information or clarifications are needed, the Icelandic Transport Authority will be pleased to provide further documentation upon request.

On behalf of the Icelandic Transport Authority,



20 December 2017

Einar Örn Hedinsson

Director Transport Operations

## Enclosed documents

### Relevant legislation:

[Act No. 76/2001 on Crews Serving on Board Icelandic Passenger Ships and Cargo Ships, as amended - STCW](#)

[Regulation No. 676/2015 on Education, Training and Certification of Seafarers - STCW](#)

[Act on the Icelandic Transport Authority \(ICETRA\)](#)

[Upper Secondary Education Act No. 92/2008](#)

[Regulation-on-Watchkeeping-Arrangements-No.-599-2001](#)

### Terms of Reference of the independent evaluators

#### Overview of training and education:

Deck officers Training overview table

Main Curriculum - School of Navigation 2009

Main Curriculum Comprehensive School Marine Engineering

Main Curriculum Comprehensive School Navigation

Marine engineering education B

Marine engineers' education A

Marine Engineers training overview table

Marine engineers' education C

Marine engineers' education D

School of Navigation overview

Deck officers and masters education B

Deck officers and masters education C

Deck officers and masters education D

#### Summary reports:

Technical College

VMA

SSTC

Review of ICETRA

Reports by Vottun Ltd.:

Reports from the four independent evaluations are enclosed

a): Independent evaluation reports relating to obligations as provided for in IMO's "non-exhaustive list of obligations under instruments relevant to the III Code (Resolution A.1070(29))", in compliance with national course plans.

- Evaluation report Verkmenntaskólinn VMA
- Evaluation report Tækniskólinn
- Evaluation report Survival and Safety Training Centre
- Independent Evaluation Report Icelandic Transport Authority

b): Independent evaluation reports relating to the ISO 9001 quality management system

The four evaluation reports are written in the Icelandic language with a summary in English.

### **Quality management certificates**

- Certificate No. 9001-33 by Vottun hf. verifying that the STCW certification system of the Icelandic Transport Authority (Ice. Samgöngustofa) fulfils the requirements of ISO 9001: 2008.
- Certificate No. 9001-29 by Vottun hf. verifying that the Technical College Reykjavík (Icel. Tækniskólinn ehf.) fulfils the requirements of ISO 9001: 2008.
- Certificate No. 9001-37 by Vottun hf. verifying that the Akureyri Comprehensive College (Icel. Verkmenntaskólinn á Akureyri) fulfils the requirements of ISO 9001:2008
- Certificate No. 9001-28 by Vottun hf. verifying that the Maritime Safety and Survival Training Centre (MSSTC) (Icel. Slysavarnaskóli sjómanna) fulfils the requirements of ISO 9001: 2008.

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Kjartan J Karason, Audit Team Leader, Vottun Ltd.

Gudjon Ármann Einarsson

Olafur J Briem

Sverrir Konradsson

Snæbjörn T. Össurarson