



Great Eastern Shipping complies with STCW 1995 norms in time

January 31, 2002

G E Shipping has today successfully met the mandatory compliance norms set by the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers (STCW) 1978 subsequently amended in 1995 for their 11 owned and managed ships (crude, product and gas carriers) currently trading internationally. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) enforced the standards stipulated in the STCW 1978 convention to achieve certain minimum standards of competence in training, watchkeeping and certification within a time frame ending on January 31, 2002. The IMO recognised that all seafarers on board ships may not hold their STCW 95 certificates or flag State endorsements and hence recommended to issue only a warning to companies and to notify the seafarers and administrations accordingly while extending the applicability by a further term of six months till July 31 2002.

G E Shipping has abided by these rigorous compliance norms for all its officers and crew in order to meet the highest standards at sea and in port. The procedure required certifying around 275 job positions spread over the above vessels. This exhaustive task could be completed only with the commendable support from offices of the Director General of Shipping and the respective Mercantile Marine Departments.

The stipulations stretched from 4 to 10 mandatory courses depending on the ranking of the officer and the crew and each such course involved training periods spanning a period of 3 to 14 days. As this could be done only during the annual leave period of the seafarer it required resourcefulness and meticulous planning.

"We lay great emphasis on safety of life and cargo at sea and the protection of the marine environment and meeting such rigorous compliance norms in time further

endorses our objectives" said Mr. Bharat Sheth, Managing Director, G E Shipping Co. Ltd.