

## **Announcement of ILO Seafarers' Identity Documents Biometric Interoperability Test Number 4 (ISBIT-4)**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is pleased to announce the fourth round of conformance, performance and interoperability testing for biometric products to be used as part of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Seafarers Identity Document (SID) program.

As the official testing laboratory designated by the ILO, Bion Biometrics will be organizing and executing this cutting edge test of standards based fingerprint systems. Products that are successful in this test will be submitted for approval by the ILO Governing Body and then added to the list of approved products found at

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/sectors/mariti/security.htm>

The ILO, established in 1919, is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations (UN). It is a tripartite organization, in which representatives of Governments, Employers and Workers take part with equal status. In June 2003, after consultation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to review measures and procedures to protect the safety and security of passengers, crews and ships, the ILO adopted the [Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention \(Revised\), 2003 \(Convention No. 185\)](#). The convention came into force on February 9, 2005 and is a binding international treaty for all Members that ratify it. It specifies the use of a two finger minutiae based template following ISO/IEC 19794-2 to be contained on each SID and to be used to verify the identity of the holder of that SID.

In order to ensure that all biometric products used to enroll and verify seafarers are interoperable in a global context and meet the minimum requirements for conformance and performance established by the ILO, they must be tested in a formal and independent setting. Three previous tests have occurred and ISBIT-4 is expected to begin in early 2007. Vendors interested in submitting a product (defined as a fingerprint sensor paired with an enrolment and verification algorithm) should contact Bion Biometrics by December 15, 2006. The exact timing of the test and the schedule for delivery of the products to the test lab will be determined in conjunction with those vendors expressing interest. Products that are mobile and able to be used on board ships or in ports for verification of seafarers are of particular interest for this round of testing.

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