



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

MARINE INFORMATION NOTE

MIN 611 (M) Amendment 1

Guidance and Information to Follow in the Event of COVID-19 Outbreak Impacting UK Seafarer Services

Notice to all Shipowners, Masters, Officers and all those concerned with seafarer training.

This MIN expires 9 March 2021

Summary

This MIN provides guidance and information on best practice due the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent outbreak in the United Kingdom that has impacted on essential Seafarer Training and Certification services delivered by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA).

1. Introduction

The World Health Organisation defines Coronaviruses as a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. COVID-19 is the name given to the infectious disease caused by the strain of coronavirus recently discovered in Wuhan, China during December 2019. The MCA has put in place contingency plans to mitigate disruption to essential delivered services in the event of a COVID-19 pandemic and outbreak in the UK that could impact the delivery of services leading to UK Certificates of Competency (CoC) and UK Certificates of Equivalent Competency (CEC). In order to allow us to best follow these plans, we request that all seafarers in the process of applying to the MCA for UK certification follow the guidance overleaf.



2. Guidance

- 2.1** From the publication date of this MIN, the MCA advise all seafarers to take full and complete copies of any documentation (including application forms) sent to the MCA. As a result, if the COVID-19 virus results in disruption to postal services or access to premises issuing licences or certificates, it would be possible to provide digital scans of all necessary documentation to facilitate the processing of your application.
- 2.2** In the event of severe disruption, that limits access to MCA premises or services (e.g., in the event widespread quarantine), the MCA recommends applicants submit all their documents via email to the appropriate processing team as well as sending the full postal application. A contact email address for the correct team can be found in the application form.

On receipt of digital copies of certification and ancillary documentation, the MCA will, providing the documents can be verified and authenticated, issue temporary certification for a duration of up to 12 months to enable continued service to be rendered by the certificate holder.

When business as usual can be resumed, the MCA will process the postal application and replace the temporary licence with a full certificate

- 2.3** In addition, the UK has put in place the following measures to enable holders of UK Seafarer Certification to continue to work and support international trade:
- The extension of validity to Certificates of Proficiency for Emergency, Occupation Safety and Survival Functions as defined in Chapter VI of the STCW Convention for a duration of up to 6 months.
 - The extension of validity to Certificates of Proficiency for Tankers, Passenger Ships, ships subject to the IGF code and ships subject to the Polar Code as defined in Chapter V of the STCW Convention and the STCW Code for a duration of up to 12 months.
 - The extension of validity to STCW GMDSS Endorsement as defined in Chapter IV/2 of the STCW Code for a duration of up to 12 months.

- 2.4** Further guidelines and Contingency Plan for the services provided to Seafarers and Shipowners by the MCA can be found by clicking here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information#coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-plan-and-guidelines-for-seafarers>



More Information

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