

MCA Approved Course Delivery, Written Exams and Oral Exams During COVID -19 Period

Long Course Delivery that leads to a UK CoC – Foundation Degree, Higher National Certificate/Diploma (HNC/D), Scottish Professional Diploma SPD.

Where an MCA-Approved college has the means to continue to deliver the underpinning knowledge online, the MCA considers this an acceptable form of delivery during this period. If available, Skype or other telecommunications applications can be utilized for the delivery of courses or student support where required.

For internal examinations colleges should follow their own procedures and guidance from the Department for Education on whether or not examinations can or should go ahead:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Should examination dates fall outside of a cadetship, you will need to contact the MCA so we can arrange a pragmatic solution: exams@mcga.gov.uk

Suspension of Oral Exams

Due to protective measures adopted by MCA to prevent the spread of Covid-19, any candidate who has arrived from outside the UK in the last 14 days should not be accepted for oral exams with immediate effect. All oral exams will be suspended from 23rd March.

MCA has taken guidelines provided by Public Health England (PHE) into account. The decision to suspend oral exams is to protect frontline staff involved in survey and inspection activities. The decision will be reviewed mid-April.

Oral Exam pass validity periods will be extended by a further 6 months.

MCA Written Exams Administered by SQA/IAMI

Colleges should use the guidance provided by Department for Education to risk assess whether examinations can or should go ahead:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Where required the MCA will extend the validity date of an MCA Written Examination pass by up to 6 months if evidence can be provided that the Covid-19 period has affected the time taken to achieve the pass result. Anyone who is not able to attend an exam due to the potential spread of Coronavirus will not be treated as a fail and will be allowed to move their exam to the next diet.

STCW Short Course e.g. Firefighting, Medical Courses etc

Courses can only be carried out on approved sites and therefore if travel restrictions, movement of people restriction or local authority requirements do not permit attendance to STCW short course, then these courses must not go ahead. However, seafarers should refer to guidance on exemptions on renewing STCW Updating Training. Where STCW requires a standard to be met prior to the issue of a new CoC, the MCA will be unable to issue the CoC until this standard has been achieved.

Suspension of short course approvals

All audits for short course approvals will be postponed with immediate effect. We will issue short term certificates for 6 months based on completion of questionnaire from the college or training provider. The questionnaire is available from your local Marine office. Overseas providers should contact stc.courses@mcga.gov.uk.

This decision is based on the latest Government advice to provide for working practices which promote social distancing. The decision will be reviewed mid-April.