MCA Approved Course Delivery, Written Exams an Oral Exams During COVID-19 Period – Latest updates highlighted in yellow.

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](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@mcca.gov.uk

Further information on Assessment and Exam is available in the following document:

**The Delivery of Long Courses, Assessment and Examination Leading to the Issue of a UK, Unlimited, Certificate of Competency (CoC)**

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


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.

Where course providers are able to move an MCA-approved course or part of a course online (no practical elements), they must approach the MCA with their proposal: stc.courses@mcga.gov.uk. As per MSN 1865 these must be approved by the Seafarer Training and Certification Branch. Online delivery of a course requires a robust means of assessing the candidate using an online platform. We would require access to the proposed system so we could observe how the course is delivered and ensure the assessment process is robust. Only once approved can a course provider commence delivery through this method.

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.