Timeline for Oral Exams and the Issue of New NOEs

Currently the Marine Offices are working through the backlog of cancelled oral exams. We are unable to allow the booking of new exams or the issue of new Notice of Eligibilities (NOEs) until we have allowed those with a cancelled exam the chance to re-book. This document details the anticipated dates that candidates will be able to start booking oral exams and when the MCA expects to start issuing new NOEs.

The MCA will apply a priority-based approach to ensure we minimise the impact of oral exam delays on the maritime industry and seafarer employment opportunities. Therefore, we will prioritise those who only require an oral exam for the issue of their Certificate of Competency (CoC).

**Important:** If you have a job opportunity and you have completed all other requirements for the issue of your CoC, then we will expedite your application – you should ask your employer to email a request to us ([deck@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:deck@mcga.gov.uk) or [engineering@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:engineering@mcga.gov.uk)) confirming the job offer and the date you are required onboard.

We will monitor the progress of online oral exams closely; this document may change based on our progress. Therefore, seafarers awaiting oral exams or NOEs should regularly check this document. **Depending on demand, we may need to extend date windows for booking priority oral exams, and this may lead to a delay for subsequent priority groups.**

In addition, candidates may find themselves changing priority order if they are able to pass written exams or complete other outstanding requirements. If this happens then they should alert the MCA by emailing the evidence to the appropriate address and state that they have met the priority requirements ([deck@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:deck@mcga.gov.uk) or [engineering@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:engineering@mcga.gov.uk)).

Please refer to the next page for the timeline.
Proposed Timeline for Oral Exams and NOEs

Present: The MCA is currently working through cancelled ‘face to face oral’ exams and applications that have been expedited due to offers of employment. Unexpected demand may lead to delays in the estimated dates stated below.

You should only contact the MCA after the priority date stated below.

13th July: From this date those who currently hold NOEs and only require an oral exam to be issued with a CoC should contact the MCA by email to request an oral exam (deck@mcga.gov.uk or engineering@mcga.gov.uk). Where applicable they must include a copy of their NOE and any outstanding documentary evidence (as ticked on the NOE). A Marine Office will then contact the candidate with a proposed oral exam date.

20th July: From this date those who currently hold NOEs and require an oral exam and 1 written exam to be issued with a CoC should contact the MCA by email to request an oral exam (deck@mcga.gov.uk or engineering@mcga.gov.uk). Where applicable a copy of the NOE and any outstanding documentary evidence must be included (as ticked on the NOE). A Marine Office will then contact the candidate with a proposed oral exam date.

27th July: From this date Resit candidates with an NOE (who have failed a maximum of two times) who only require an oral exam should contact the MCA by email to request an oral exam (deck@mcga.gov.uk or engineering@mcga.gov.uk). Where applicable a copy of their NOE and any outstanding documentary evidence must be included (as ticked on the NOE). A Marine Office will then contact the candidate with a proposed oral exam date.

3rd August: The MCA will issue NOEs to OOW, EOOW and ETOs candidates that only require an oral exam to be issued with a CoC. Candidates will be made aware by email which will provide instructions on how to book an oral exam. They will be placed on an oral exam priority list which will be checked by a Marine Office when they book.

10th August: The MCA will issue NOEs to all other applicants who only require an oral exam to be issued with a CoC. Candidates will be made aware by email which will provide instructions on how to book an oral exam. They will be placed on an oral exam priority list which will be checked by a Marine Office when they book.

17th August: The MCA will issue NOEs to all other applicants (including resits) who only require an oral exam to be issued a CoC. Candidates will be made aware by email which will provide instructions on how to book an oral exam. They will be placed on an oral exam priority list which will be checked by a Marine Office when they book.
24th August: The MCA will issue NOEs to all other applicants (including resits) who only require an oral exam and 1 written exam to be issued with a CoC. Candidates will be made aware by email which will provide instructions on how to book an oral exam. They will be placed on an oral exam priority list which will be checked by a Marine Office when they book.

31st August: Return to ‘business as usual’ candidates holding NOEs should book an oral exam through the centralised system. We will update this document to explain how to book. The MCA will issue NOEs in receipt date order, i.e. ‘first come first served’. 