

MCA Approved Course Delivery, Written Exams and 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.

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)

Oral Exam Passes Moving Oral Exams Online

MIN 620 (Amendment 1) provides the latest information on Oral exams:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/min-620-m-amendment-1-update-on-online-oral-exams-and-future-issue-of-noes-during-covid-19-lockdown>

Where required the MCA will extend the validity date of an MCA Oral 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 requirements for a CoC.

Accessing Colleges/Training Centres for Teaching and Assessment

Colleges, universities and training centres should refer to guidance set by the relevant Public Health England (PHE) or applicable devolved Administration equivalent:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Training providers must adhere to the MNTB guidelines. If a training centre needs to change the delivery of a course outside of the MNTB guidelines or their current MCA approval, such as a change of venue, then they must approach the MCA for approval to

do this. Within the UK they should contact the local Marine office and copy in the Seafarer Services Branch: stc.courses@mcga.gov.uk. Outside of the UK they should approach the Seafarer Training and Certification Branch.

Under the requirements of MSN 1865 the MCA can suspend course approvals if they receive evidence of the following:

- A Training Centre has put at risk the health and safety of its those delivering or attending the course.
- A Training Centre has made changes that effect the delivery of a course without the approval from the MCA.

MCA Written Exams Administered by SQA/IAMI – Extensions to Validity

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.

Completion of Sea Time within Course Completion Time Limit (MIN 563)

Currently to be eligible for your reduced seagoing service requirement you must obtain your academic qualification (Higher National Certificate or Higher National Diploma) and complete your seagoing service within 5 years of enrolling on your course. Due to the current lockdown associated with the outbreak of COVID-19 the MCA is extending this period by 12 months. Extensions beyond this will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Second Engineer Requirements: Completion of HNC only, MSN 1857 section 7.3.2 – Pre-July 2015 Exemptions.

MSN 1857 requires all those who went through the 'HNC only' route to complete all of the management level academic* written exams. Due to the 2015 regulations bringing in this requirement, the MCA had allowed seafarers with the HNC qualification obtained before July 2015 to progress through the HND route with exemptions from the academic exams up until 31.07.2020.

Due to the COVID 19 lockdown restrictions we have agreed to extend this until 31.07.2021. From this date all EOOW who only obtained a HNC, will need to complete all of the academic written exams to obtain a Second Engineer CoC, in addition to the other requirements listed in MSN 1857. This is regardless of whether or not they have submitted an application for a Second Engineer CoC.

*These include SQA Management Mathematics, Applied Mechanics, Applied Heat, Engineering Drawing, Electro Technology and Naval Architecture.

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

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 Services 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.

Short course approvals

Where a re-approval is required, and the MCA cannot visit the site (online or in person) the MCA will issue short term certificates for 12 months based on the completion of a questionnaire that will need to be completed by the training provider. The questionnaire is available from your local Marine office. Overseas providers should contact stc.courses@mcga.gov.uk