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## **Alternative Route for Revalidating a UK Certificate of Competency: For Officers not Meeting Requirements laid out in MGN 9**

**Notice to all IShipowners, Masters and Deck Officers of Merchant and Fishing Vessels, Commercially and Privately Operated Yachts and Sail Training Vessels, and those concerned with Maritime Training. Insert Audience eg, Shipowners, Masters etc**

*This notice should be read with MGN 9 and MIN 494 and replaces MIN 443  
TThis MIN expires 30 April 2015*

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### **Summary**

This MIN has been re-issued (previously MIN 443). Where officers cannot comply with the revalidation requirements laid down in MGN 9 (M), this MIN offers an alternative. This note provides information on how you may sail in a lower than certified capacity in order to revalidate your UK Certificates of Competency (CoC). This replaces paragraph 10.6 in MGN 9 (M). Applications will be made to Seafarer Training and Certification branch who will issue a Notice of Eligibility for an oral examination with a MCA Examiner.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 9 (M) and Marine Information Note (MIN) 494 (M) provide guidance regarding the revalidation of Certificates of Competency issued in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping 1978 as amended. Every Master and Officer holding a Certificate of Competency (CoC) issued under STCW who wishes to serve at sea is required to revalidate their CoC at intervals not exceeding 5 years.
- 1.2 As per MGN 9 (M) paragraph 10.0 and MIN 494 paragraph 4.1 in order to revalidate your CoC, you must:
- (a) Have served as an Officer in your relevant discipline (deck or engineering) for at least 12 months (which need not be continuous) during the preceding 5 years; **or**
  - (b) Have served as an Officer or supernumerary in your relevant discipline (deck or engineering) for at least 3 months in total during the preceding 6 months immediately prior to revalidation; **or**
  - (c) Have been engaged in an occupation the MCA considers to be equivalent to the sea service required for revalidation for at least 2 and a half years of the preceding 5 years.



- 1.3 If you do not meet the revalidation criteria you may not be familiar with recent developments. The MCA must therefore ensure your competence before revalidating your CoC.
- 1.4 You may apply to Seafarer Training and Certification branch for a Notice of Eligibility (NOE) for an MCA oral examination. On passing the oral examination you will be issued with a temporary CoC for service at a lower rank. After completing 3 months' seagoing service your CoC will be revalidated in full. Temporary Certificates will be issued for a period of 6 months; they may be extended at the discretion of the Chief Examiner. Those who wish to restrict their service to a certain type of vessel may elect to be examined only on that type of vessel, in which case the temporary CoC will indicate this limitation.
- 1.5 If you are either a Deck Officer of the Watch or Engineering Officer of the Watch who cannot revalidate through the means of MGN 9, MIN 494 or paragraph 1.4 above, you may sit a **FULL** Deck Officer of the Watch or Engineering Officer of the Watch oral exam. On successful completion of the oral examination and providing you meet the other revalidation requirements, your certificate will be revalidated in full.

## 2. Alternative Route Application Procedure

2.1 Applications must be submitted to the Seafarer Training and Certification Branch with the full supporting documentation specified below. A flow diagram outlining the procedure can be found in Annex 1.

2.2 To revalidate your UK CoC you must submit:

(a) A completed and signed [MSF 4258](#)

(b) UK CoC and the following ancillary certificates or their recognised equivalents (see table below);

- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (PSC & RB) (STCW Code A-VI/2-1);
- Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code A-VI/3);
- Proficiency in Medical First Aid (STCW Code A-VI/4-1);

(c) For deck officers only

- **Masters and Chief Mates only:** certificate of Proficiency in Medical Care (STCW A-VI/4-2) or accepted equivalent;
- For holders of CoCs issued **before** the STCW 95 amendments came into force: Ancillary Certificates as described in MGN 9 (M) paragraph 10.8.1;
- GMDSS Certificate approved by the MCA

(d) Attested copy of Passport\*;

(e) 2 passport-size photographs (1 attested as true likeness);

(f) A valid ENG1 Medical Fitness Certificate, or accepted equivalent; **and**

(g) The appropriate fee.

\* You should submit a photocopy of your passport attested by either:

- A Notary Public (UK or Foreign);
- MCA approved Nautical Colleges;
- PYA;
- IYT;
- Other MCA approved organisations.



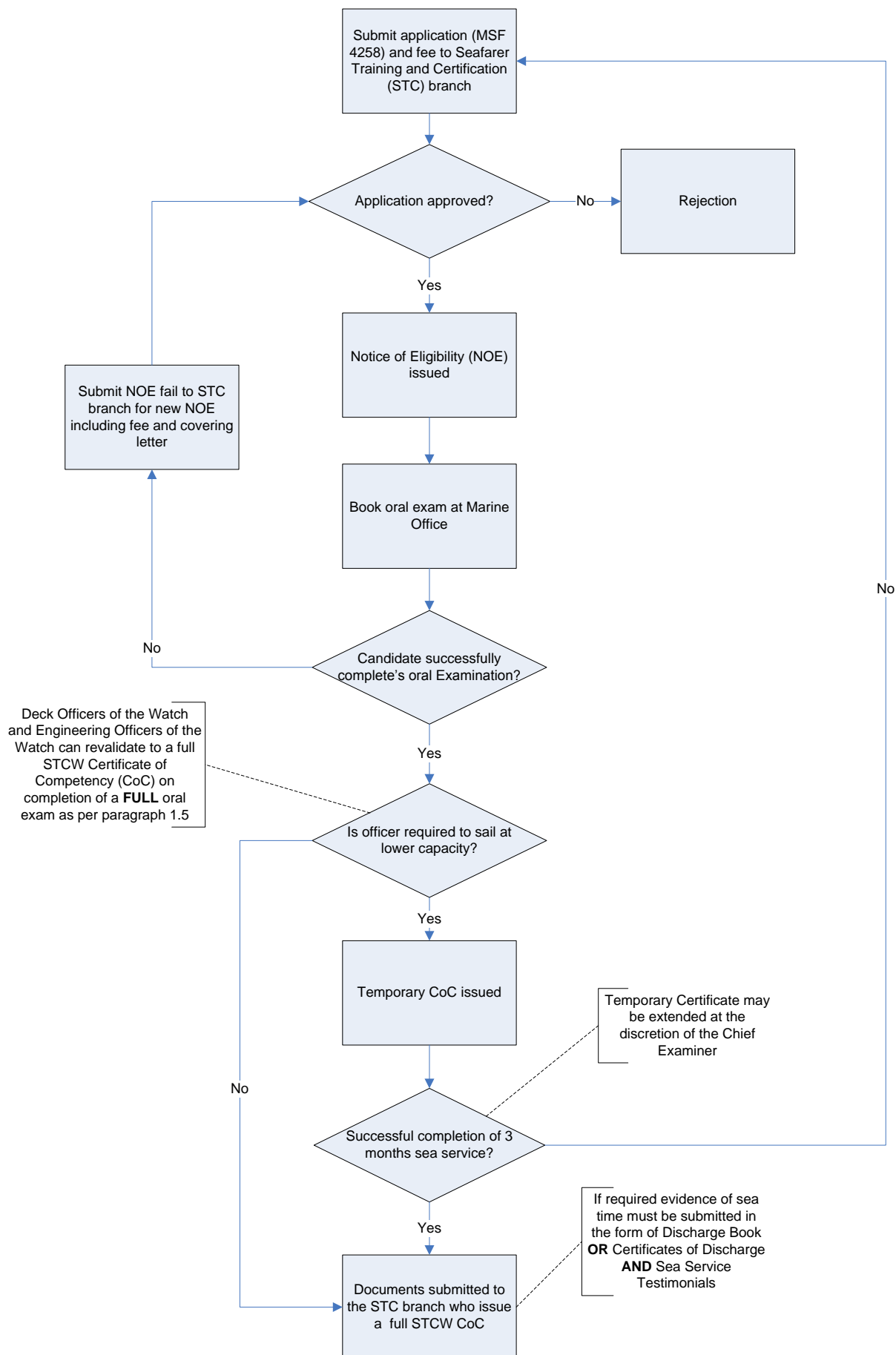
The copy should be stamped, signed and sighted as an original copy. Copies must be clear and to scale. **Your original passport and visa (if required) will be checked against your Notice of Eligibility at the oral examination.**

- 2.3 Once you have completed 3 months' seagoing service in an appropriate capacity you should submit your temporary Certificate of Competency (CoC), Discharge Book **or** Certificates of Discharge **and** Sea Service Testimonials with a covering letter to the Seafarer Training and Certification Branch. Once the sea time has been checked the MCA will issue you with a full UK CoC.

Table of courses accepted as equivalent to the current STCW courses

STCW Advanced Safety Training in its current form	MCA accepted equivalents to the current STCW requirement.
Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (PSC & RB) (STCW Code A-VI/2-1);	Proficiency in Survival Craft
	Lifeboatman Certificate
Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code A-VI/3)	Advanced Fire Fighting (4 day)
	MNTB approved Fire Fighting (4 day)
Medical First Aid (STCW Code A-VI/4-1)	First Aid at Sea
Proficiency in Medical Care (STCW A-VI/4-2)	Ship Captain's Medical





## More Information

Seafarer Training and Certification Branch  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/11  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9231  
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9252  
e-mail: [revalidation@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:revalidation@mcga.gov.uk)

General Inquiries: [info@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:info@mcga.gov.uk)

Website Address: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency)

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