



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION GUIDANCE – PART 13

Use of Fishing Vessel Certificates of Competency in Standby, Seismic Survey and Oceanographic Research Vessels – Revised Arrangements

Notice to Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers serving in Standby, Seismic Survey and Oceanographic Research Vessels.

This Note supersedes Merchant Shipping Notice No. M1464

Summary

This Marine Guidance Note (MGN) is part of a series which gives guidance regarding the application of the Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations 1997¹.

In order for the guidance to be easy to use and to keep up-to-date, the individual Parts will retain the same Part number but the MGN number may change if and when revisions are necessary. The front sheet of any revised Part will list the latest MGN numbers. Any reference to “Part” in this Note relates to this series of Guidance Notes as listed below.

Key Point

Holders of fishing vessel certificates of competency will no longer be permitted to work on standby, seismic survey and oceanographic research vessels after STCW 95 is fully implemented on 1 February 2002.

This Part gives details of how holders of fishing certificates of competency can obtain STCW 95 Merchant Navy certificates of competency for use in these vessels.

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¹ SI 1997/348 as amended by SI 1997/1911

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16	Certification of inshore craft personnel (other than tugs)	MGN 126(M)	Not yet issued

Seafarer Standards Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton SO15 1EG

Tel: 02380 329231
Fax: 02380 329252
E-mail : exams_section@mcga.gov.uk

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All references to "Parts" in this document are to other Parts of this series of Training and Certification Guidance Notes

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations 1997 (the Regulations), implement in the United Kingdom some of the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 1995 (STCW 95)² and its associated Code (STCW Code).
- 1.2 The Regulations replace the Merchant Shipping (Certification of Deck Officers) Regulations 1985³ and the Merchant Shipping (Certification of Marine Engineer Officers and Licensing of Marine Engine Operators) Regulations 1986⁴, as amended.
- 1.3 The earlier regulations allowed for the employment of officers holding fishing vessel certificates of competency in standby, seismic survey and oceanographic research vessels. However, these arrangements will no longer be permitted after STCW 95 is fully implemented on 1 February 2002.
- 1.4 It is recognised that the arrangements currently in place for the employment of such officers have worked well and that the withdrawal of these arrangements would cause undue hardship to the officers concerned and create problems for the manning of vessels in this area of the offshore sector.
- 1.5 It has therefore been decided, in consultation with the industry, that where officers satisfy the following criteria, they will be issued with a restricted STCW 95 certificate of competency to allow for continued employment in standby, seismic survey or oceanographic research vessels.

2.0 Requirements for all applicants

2.1 **All** applicants must hold the following:

- .1 a valid UK fishing vessel certificate of competency;
- .2 a valid medical fitness certificate (currently ENG 1) or equivalent;
- .3 a valid seafarer vision test report (MSF 4100) if the ENG 1 is more than 2 years old (deck officers only);
- .4
 - i) an advanced fire-fighting certificate as required by Regulation A-VI/3 of the STCW Code *or*
 - ii) an MNTB approved 4 day fire-fighting certificate;
- .5
 - i) a Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (PSC&RB) as required by Regulation A-VI/2 of the STCW Code), *or*
 - ii) a Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft, *or*
 - iii) a Lifeboatman's certificate, *or*
 - iv) a PSC&RB issued following an OPITO Boatman's or FRC Coxwains course plus one day conversion and assessment (details of which can be obtained from the address in paragraph 4.1.2); *and*

² Available from the Publications Department, the International Maritime Organization, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR

³ SI 1985/1306

⁴ SI 1986/1935

- .6 i) a valid Medical First Aid certificate as required by Section A-VI/4.1 of the STCW Code, *or*
- ii) a First Aid at Sea certificate, *or*
- iii) a Medical Care certificate as required by Section A-VI/4.2 of the STCW Code *or*
- iv) Ship Captain's Medical certificate, *or*
- v) an OPITO Basic or Advanced Medical Aid for Standby Vessel Crews certificate *or*
- vi) a Standby Vessel Crew Initial Training Shipboard Operations Course certificate.

3.0 Additional requirements for deck officers other than master

3.1 In addition to the requirements set out in paragraph 2 above, deck officers, other than the master, must also hold the following:

- .1 i) a GMDSS General Operator's Certificate (GOC), *or*
- ii) GMDSS Restricted Operator's Certificate (ROC), (a 3 day conversion course is available for holders of a Long Range Certificate to gain a GMDSS General Operator's Certificate); *and*
- .2 i) an Electronic Navigation Systems (ENS) certificate (Fishing), *or*
- ii) an Electronic Navigation Systems certificate (Merchant Navy), *or*
- iii) Radar Observer and Radar Simulator certificates, *or*
- iv) a Navigation Radar and ARPA Simulator Training (operational) certificate, *or*
- v) Small Vessel Navigation and Radar Course certificate.

4.0 Additional requirements for masters

4.1 In addition to the requirements of paragraph 2 above, masters must also hold the following:

- .1 i) a GMDSS General Operator's Certificate (GOC), *or*
- ii) GMDSS Restricted Operator's Certificate (ROC), (a 3 day conversion course is available for holders of a Long Range Certificate to gain a GMDSS General Operator's Certificate); *and*
- .2 i) a Navigation Control Course certificate (Fishing), *or*
- ii) a Navigation Control Course certificate (Merchant Navy), *or*
- iii) a Navigation Radar and ARPA Simulator Training (management) certificate, *or*
- iv) Radar Observer and Radar Simulator and ARPA certificates, *or*
- v) OPITO Command and Control Course plus Radar Simulator and either ARPA or Radar Observer certificates, *or*
- vi) OPITO Command and Control Course plus conversion course certificates, details of which can be obtained from the following address:

Standby Ship Operators Association
 Chappetts Farm House
 West Meon
 Petersfield
 Hants
 GU32 1NB

4.2 The MCA may consider other qualifications as acceptable in lieu of the above.

5.0 Certificates of service

5.1 **Fishing vessel certificates of service (deck)** will not be considered for the issue of an STCW 95 certificate as they have not been permitted for service in standby, seismic survey and oceanographic research vessels. However, fishing vessel certificates of service (engine) **have** been permitted for service in these vessels and arrangements for the issue of restricted STCW 95 certificates of competency are detailed in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 below.

5.2 **Holders of fishing vessel certificates of service (engine)** who have served in standby, seismic survey and oceanographic research vessels will, in addition to the requirements of paragraph 2, have to take an MCA oral examination. The oral examination fulfills the STCW 95 requirement for assessment and will be conducted by an MCA examiner at an MCA Marine Office. Details of the examination syllabuses are attached at Annex 1.

5.3 Until 1 February 2002, special arrangements may be made with a local MCA Marine Office to enable officers to be examined on board their current vessel. The examination will be safety orientated and of a practical nature. The examiner will have regard for the candidate’s experience and the level of competence required for the safe operation of the ship.

6.0 Application procedure

6.1 Applications for STCW 95 certificates of competency described above should be made on section B of the Revalidation Application Form (MSF 4201), which may be obtained from any MCA Marine Office. Applicants should clearly mark the top of the application form “Fishing to Standby Conversion” and forward it, together with the appropriate fee and all original documentary proof of the above requirements to the address given at the beginning of this Guidance Note.

6.2 Applicants assessed as eligible to sit the MCA oral examination will be issued with a Notice of Eligibility and should then arrange with a local MCA Marine Office to be examined. Full details of MCA oral examination procedures may be found in Part 11.

7.0 Limitations and capacities endorsed on STCW 95 certificates

7.1 All certificates will be endorsed with the limitation “Standby, seismic survey and oceanographic research vessels only”, and will be issued under STCW 95 Regulations II or III.

7.2 **Deck** – In addition, deck certificates will have a capacity entered which will depend on the fishing vessel certificate originally held and the sea service completed on board standby, seismic survey and oceanographic vessels. The following table sets out the capacities which may be entered:

Current Certificate	Sea service	STCW 95 Capacity & Reg	
Skipper (Full)	12 months or more as Chief Mate	Master	II/2
Class 1 Deck (Fishing)	12 months or more as Chief Mate	Master	II/2
Skipper (Full)	Less than 12 months	Chief Mate	II/2
Class 1 Deck (Fishing)	Less than 12 months	Chief Mate	II/2
Second Hand (Full)	N/A	Chief Mate	II/2
Skipper (Limited)	N/A	Chief Mate	II/2
Class 2 Deck (Fishing)	N/A	Chief Mate	II/2
Second Hand (Limited)	N/A	Navigational OOW	II/1
Second Hand (Special)	N/A	Navigational OOW	II/1
Class 3 Deck (Fishing)	N/A	Navigational OOW	II/1

7.3 Engineers – STCW 95 certificates of competency issued to holders of Engineer Officer (Fishing Vessel) certificates of competency will be issued under STCW 95 Regulation III/3 in the capacity of Chief or Second Engineer and will carry the following limitation: “Standby, seismic survey and oceanographic research vessels only, limited to vessels of under 3,000kW registered power within the Limited European Trading Area or under 1,500kW in any other trading area.”

8.0 Further Information

8.1 Further information, if required, is available from the MCA at any MCA Marine Office or at the address given at the beginning of this Guidance Note.

MCA ORAL EXAMINATION SYLLABUSES FOR CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE HOLDERS APPLYING FOR STCW 95 CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

Holders of Engineer Officers (Fishing Vessel) Class 2 Certificates of Service, applying for a STCW 95 Regulation III/3 certificate as Second Engineer

- Preparing main and auxiliary machinery for sea; testing of steering gear.
- Compilation of engine room log book and understanding of significance of readings taken.
- Routine pumping operations of fuel oil, fresh and salt water and bilge system; location of common faults.
- Preparing, starting, coupling and changing over alternators or generators.
- Safety precautions to be observed to prevent environmental pollution; emergency equipment, its operation and maintenance; knowledge of the Code of Safe Working Practice on Fishing Vessels; and knowledge of appropriate Merchant Shipping Notices.

Holders of Engineer Officers (Fishing Vessel) Class 1 Certificates of Service, applying for a STCW 95 Regulation III/3 certificate as Chief Engineer

- Managerial responsibilities of a certificated engineer officer.
- Management of engines and pressure vessels, electrical machinery.
- Prevention of fire; methods of fire fighting at sea.
- Supervisory duties, work to be done in port, periodical examination of the working parts.
- Constructional details; arrangements and management of refrigeration plant.
- Construction, arrangement and operation of steering systems.
- Construction details and principles of action pumps; general requirements for pumping systems.
- Working principles and constructional details of marine diesel engines, together with their ancillary equipment such as gearboxes, clutches, thrust bearings and transmission systems.
- Operation and maintenance of diesel engines.
- Determination of engine power; starting and reversing systems.
- Properties of fuel and lubricating oils used in diesel engines; the fuel system; the lubricating oil system.
- Operation, testing and fault rectification of automatic control and alarm panels.
- Basic hydraulic circuits and their maintenance.
- Construction, safe operation and maintenance of deck machinery.
- Knowledge of the Code of Safe Working Practices for Fishing Vessels in machinery rooms and other enclosed spaces.
- Knowledge of appropriate Merchant Shipping Notices.

