



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION GUIDANCE – PART 18

STCW 95 Certificates of Competency Conversion of Tonnage Limitations – GRT TO GT

Notice to Owners, Masters, and Deck Officers of Merchant Vessels

This Note should be read in conjunction with MSN 1692(M) or any subsequent replacement

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 and the revised International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW 95)².

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 MGN relates to this series of Guidance Notes as listed below.

Key Points

Under STCW 95, Merchant Navy deck officer certificates of competency are limited to service on vessels measured in gross tonnage (gt) rather than gross registered tons (GRT). The level conversion from GRT to gt has raised certain anomalies and in future, holders of pre-STCW 95 certificates of competency will have their GRT limitations converted as follows:

5000 GRT to 15,000 gt
10,000 GRT to 20,000 gt

This will not apply in relation to vessels for which a tanker endorsement is required.

¹ SI 1997/348 as amended by SIs 1997/1911 and 2000/836

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

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15	Certification of inshore tug personnel	MGN 117 (M)	April 2000
16	Certification of inshore craft personnel (other than tugs)	MGN 126(M)	November 2000
17	Certificates of competency or marine engine operator licences for service as an engineer officer on commercially and privately operated yachts and sail training vessels	MGN 156 (M)	To be issued shortly
18	STCW 95 certificates of competency - conversion of tonnage limitations from GRT to gt	This Note	

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 When the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 1997 were introduced, all references to the measurement of vessels, which had previously been in gross registered tons (GRT), were changed to gross tonnage (gt). Existing vessels previously measured in GRT retained references to both measurements but new vessels are now measured only in gross tonnage. STCW 95 references are only to vessels measured in gt.
- 1.2 This has meant that holders of pre-STCW 95 certificates of competency with a GRT limitation have had this limitation stated in gt when they have applied for STCW 95 certificates. This is in line with the Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations 1997 and the conversion tables listed in MSN 1692(M) on Transitional Arrangements.
- 1.3 However, this has raised the potential for anomalies in the certification system in that, in some cases, holders of pre-STCW 95 certificates of competency with limitations in GRT now find that the limitations of their STCW 95 certificates do not allow them to serve in ships of a similar physical size when measured in gt.

2.0 Changes Proposed

- 2.1 To overcome this problem, it has been decided that in future, any pre-STCW 95 certificate with a GRT limitation will, on conversion to a STCW 95 certificate of competency, have this limitation adjusted, as appropriate, as follows:

5,000GRT	5,000GRT or 15,000gt *
10,000GRT	10,000GRT or 20,000gt**

* limited to 5,000gt on tankers

** limited to 10,000gt on tankers

3.0 Tanker Endorsements

- 3.1 It should be noted that tankers do not attract the same numerical increase in gt tonnage as other vessels, and the limitations on STCW 95 certificates of competency for service on vessels which require a tanker endorsement, will not be increased.

4.0 Existing Holders of STCW 95 Certificates

- 4.1 Holders of STCW 95 certificates already issued, who consider they have been disadvantaged by the level conversion from GRT to gt, may apply for a replacement certificate with the revised gt limitations. Applicants should send an application form, together with their current certificate, 2 passport sized photographs and a replacement fee (currently £14) to the Seafarer Standards Branch at the address at the front of this Note. Application forms are also available from this address.

5.0 Further Information

- 5.1 Further information, if required, is available from the MCA at any MCA Marine Office or at the address given at the front of this Note.



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