
Alternative Training Standards for Crew Taking Part in Helicopter Operations on Large Commercial Yachts

Notice to all Yacht Captains, Yacht Managers, Training Providers, Yacht Crew involved in Helicopter operations

This notice should be read in conjunction with The Large Commercial Yacht Code or the Code of Practice for Yachts Carrying 13 to 36 Passengers (The Passenger Yacht Code).

Summary

This document provides guidance on the alternative training standards for Helicopter Landing Officers (HLOs) and Helideck Landing Assistants (HDA) working on large commercial yachts with helicopter decks complying with the Large Commercial Yacht Code or the Code of Practice for Yachts Carrying 13 to 36 Passengers (The Passenger Yacht Code).

1. Introduction/ Background

- 1.1 Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1792 'The Large Commercial Yacht Code (LY2)' and the Code of Practice for Yachts Carrying 13 to 36 Passengers (The Passenger Yacht Code) contain requirements for the training and certification of officers and crew involved in helicopter landing area operations.
- 1.2 The acceptable certification specified in both codes is issued by the Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organisation (OPITO); however this is designed for helicopter landing activities on offshore platforms. A more relevant standard was needed for operations on commercial yachts with helicopter decks certificated to the standards specified in those codes of practice.
- 1.3 An industry Working Group was established by MCA in 2008 to consider "Certification of equivalent courses" which could be accepted by the UK Marine Administration under The Large Commercial Yacht Code and the Passenger Yacht Code.
- 1.4 In considering the issue of accepting an equivalent course the Working Group also had the objective of identifying the difficulties surrounding the achievement of the current requirement and identifying how the requirements may be modified to more appropriately reflect the needs of the Large Yacht Industry.

1.5 The group was also to agree a process by which training providers wishing to offer such an alternative syllabus may be reviewed and considered for acceptance by the UK Marine Administration.

2. Guidance Available

2.1 As a result of the Working Group's meetings the following documents have been published on the Ensign page of the MCA website and are available separately to this notice (<http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/shipsandcargoes/ensign.htm>).

- Large Commercial Yacht Helicopter Operations Handbook
- Large Commercial Yacht Helicopter Refuelling Handbook
- Large Commercial Yacht Helideck Safety Training Syllabus

2.2 The Large Commercial Yacht Helicopter Operations Handbook and the Refuelling Guide provide guidance on the operation of helicopters on large yachts and may be used as a basis for operations to be included in the ISM Safety Management System required by section 30 of the Large Commercial Yacht Code for all yachts with commercially certificated helicopter landing decks.

2.3 Courses approved by the MCA and run in accordance with the requirements set down in the safety training syllabus will be considered as meeting the 'equivalent course' requirement in the Large Commercial Yacht Code paragraph 24.2.4 and the Passenger Yacht Code paragraph 11.2 (5).

3. Approval of Courses

3.1 Providers wishing to run a course in accordance with the syllabus produced should contact the MCA Seafarers Training and Certification branch at the address below for further information on course approval.

Seafarer Training and Certification Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 1/17
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG
Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9231
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9252

4. Certification

4.1 On successful completion of an MCA approved course, a course pass certificate for Helideck Landing Officer (HLO) or HeliDeck Assistant (HDA) may be issued by an MCA approved training provider.

More Information

Vessel Policy Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 02/30
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9139
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9161
e-mail: codes@mcga.gov.uk

General Inquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

MCA Website Address: www.mcga.gov.uk

File Ref: MS 092/76/001

Published: January 2012
Please note that all addresses and
telephone numbers are correct at time of publishing

© Crown Copyright 2012

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas

*An executive agency of the
Department for*
Transport

When printed by the MCA the material used contains a minimum 75% post-consumer waste paper