Interim Tug Engineer Certification Scheme

Introduction

The pathway to certification for tug engineers through the Vocational Qualification (VQ) route is now closed. A new tug engineer scheme will be encompassed in the legislation and guidance that brings the Seafarer Training Certification and Watchkeeping Convention and Code (STCW) 2010 amendments into force. It will be proposed that a new structure should be sought that will bring about greater commonality, and hence flexibility of employment, of the certification of engineers officers working in the restricted power sector (Tugs, Fishing, Yachts and Limited Power Merchant Vessels). In the interim it has been agreed between the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (**MCA**) and the British Tug Association (**BTA**) that the following Certification Scheme can be used to gain Tug Engineer Certification and will be the basis for future consultation for inclusion in the legislation that brings the STCW 2010 amendments into force.

The interim Tug engineer scheme is based around the Yacht Engineer Scheme (the syllabi being available on the MCA website www.mcga.gov.uk) as they use similar propulsion and auxiliary systems albeit the function of the vessel is very different. Any areas of competence which are outside the "restricted" sector common requirements will be addressed in the MCA oral examination.

The scheme also reflects the changes made to STCW by the 2010 amendments but does not include high voltage systems and additional courses will have to be completed if service on vessels fitted with high voltage (over 1000 volts) systems is required.

Under the previous British Tug Association VQ the area of operation was limited to 30 miles from UK safe haven, the new scheme extends this to the UK near-coastal area. It is also recognised that a limit of 6000 kW propulsion power is no longer a realistic upper limit and this has been raised to 9000 kW.

The service requirement under the previous BTA scheme was for 36 months tug service to Engineer Officer of the Watch (Tug) and a further 36 months tug service between EOOW (Tug) and C/E (Tug). Under STCW Article IX the sea service requirement for certain certificates may be varied and this is reflected in this certification structure.

The tug engineer training programme does not meet the full requirements of Regulations III/1, III/2 and III/3 of STCW so the certificates issued under this programme are under Article IX of STCW with reference to these regulations.

Tug engineering certificates available

The following certificates are available under this programme

- Engineer Officer of the Watch (Tug) <9000 kW
- Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <9000 kW
- Chief Engineer (Tug) endorsement <3000 kW, less than 500 GT

The area limitation place on these certificates depends on where the tug service leading to the issue of the certificate was carried out.

- if the tug service was carried out within Category “C” and “D” waters the limitation will be 30 miles from UK safe haven
- if the tug service includes at least 90 days service of at least 4 hours per day outside Category C & D the limitation will be UK near-coastal area

Note: Tug service in the context of this document is time spent on the vessel and excludes leave and other non-working time. A days tug service is a minimum of 8 hours working duty.

Before commencing training

All trainees must have completed the following STCW training courses:

- Proficiency in personal survival techniques, STCW Reg VI/1 Section A-1/1-1;
- Proficiency in personal safety and social responsibilities, STCW Reg VI/1 Section A-1/1-4;
- Proficiency in fire prevention and fire fighting, STCW Reg VI/1 Section A-1/1-2;
- Proficiency in elementary first aid, STCW Reg VI/1 Section A-1/1-3; and
- from 1st July 2013 Proficiency in security awareness, STCW Regulation VI/6 para 4.

In addition to this, all trainees must complete an MCA approved MNTB course on entry to enclosed spaces.

Engineer Officer of the Watch (Tug) <9000 kW
(issued under Article IX and Regulation III/1 of the STCW Convention and Code)

To be eligible for the issue of this certificate a candidate must be at least 18 years old and have completed one of the following education and training programmes:

- **an approved training programme which includes**:
    - registration with the British Tug Association (**BTA**)
    - education and training through either an approved HNC, MSQ or other agreed programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi :
        - Scottish Qualification Authority (**SQA)** General Engineering Science (**GES**) I & II*;
        - SQA Marine diesel engineering ;
        - SQA Auxiliary equipment; and
        - SQA Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction;
    - 12 months combined tug service and workshop training with a minimum of 6 months tug service including;
        - MNTB support level workshop skills and charging of refrigeration systems (approximately 1 month)*; and
        - completion of the relevant sections of the MNTB Training Record Book (TRB).
    - Completion of the following STCW training courses:
        - Proficiency in medical first aid, STCW Reg VI/ Section A-VI/4-1;
        - Proficiency in advanced fire fighting, STCW Reg VI/ Section A-VI/3; and
        - Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats (other than fast

rescue boats) , STCW Reg VI/ Section A-VI/2-1;
- completion of MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
- Pass MCA oral examination.

* sufficient education in GES and Workshop training should be delivered prior of sea service to enable understanding of the tasks being completed in the TRB and thereby give learning experience equivalent to the 36 months service.

- **experienced seafarer programme**

To enrol on this programme a seafarer must have completed 12 months tug engine room service, the programme will then include:

- 36 months combined tug service and workshop training with a minimum of 30 months tug service in the engineering department including:
  - MNTB support level workshop skills and charging of refrigeration systems (approximately 1 month); and
  - completion of the relevant sections of the MNTB Training Record Book (TRB).
- education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
  - SQAMarine diesel engineering ;
  - SQA Auxiliary equipment; and
  - SQA Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction;
- completion of the following STCW training courses:
  - Proficiency in medical first aid, STCW Reg VI/ Section A-VI/4-1;
  - Proficiency in advanced fire fighting, STCW Reg VI/ Section A-VI/3; and
  - Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats (other than fast rescue boats) , STCW Reg VI/ Section A-VI/2-1;
- have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
- pass MCA oral examination.

Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <9000 kW
(issued under Article IX and Regulation III/2 of the STCW Convention and Code)

To be eligible for the issue of this certificate a candidate must:

- Hold a Certificate of Competence for EOOW (Tug) <9000kW and have 24 months tug service in that capacity.
- have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
  - SQA General Engineering Science I & II (if not already completed);
  - SQA Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements
  - SQA Applied Marine Engineering
  - SQA Advanced Hotel Services and Ship Construction
  - have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership &

Management (HELM) (operational level); and
- pass MCA oral examination.

Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <3000 kW, **less than 500 GT** (**endorsement)**
(issued under Article IX and Regulation III/3 of the STCW Convention and Code)

To be eligible for the issue of this certificate a candidate must:

- hold a Certificate of Competence for EOOW (Tug) < 9000 kW and have12 months of approved tug service in that position, and
- have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
  - SQA Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements
- have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
- pass MCA oral examination.

Transfer from existing Tug Qualifications

The existing tug qualification will continue to be recognised with their existing limitations, however, if an individual wishes to increase their power or capacity limitations they will have to meet the following criteria. The area of operation limitation of any certificates issued will be the same as the main certificate route see “Area of operation limitation” above.

For those holding Certificates of Competence as EOOW (Tug) <3000kW or <6000kW <30 miles from UK safe haven (gained by oral examination only)

- To be eligible for the issue of EOOW (Tug) <9000 kW Certificate of Competence a candidate must:
  - have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
    - SQA Marine diesel engineering;
    - SQA Auxiliary equipment;
    - SQA Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction;
  - have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
  - pass a MCA oral examination

- To be eligible for the issue of Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <9000 kW Certificate of Competence a candidate must:
  - have 24 months tug service in the capacity of EOOW (Tug).
  - have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
    - SQA General Engineering Science I & II ;
    - SQA Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
    - SQA Applied Marine Engineering;
    - SQA Advanced Hotel Services and Ship Construction;

- have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
- pass MCA oral examination

- To be eligible for the issue of Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <3000 kW, less than 500 GT (endorsement) Certificate of Competence a candidate must:
  - have 12 months tug service whilst holding EOOW (Tug) Certificate of Competency; and
  - have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
    - SQA Marine diesel engineering;
    - SQA Auxiliary equipment;
    - SQA Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship con
    - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements
  - have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
  - pass MCA oral examination

For those holding Certificate of Competence as EOOW (Tug) <6000kW <30 miles from UK safe haven (by VQ and oral examination)

- To EOOW (Tug) <9000 kW
  - have 6 months tug service in the capacity of EOOW (Tug) on tugs of 4500 kW propulsion power or more; or
  - pass a MCA oral examination.

- To be eligible for the issue of Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <9000 kW Certificate of Competence a candidate must:
  - have 24 months tug service in the capacity of EOOW (Tug).
  - have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
    - General Engineering Science I & II ;
    - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
    - Applied Marine Engineering;
    - Advanced Hotel Services and Ship Construction;
  - have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
  - pass a MCA oral examination

- To be eligible for the issue of Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <3000 kW, less than 500 GT (endorsement) Certificate of Competence a candidate must:
  - have 12 months tug service whilst holding EOOW (Tug) Certificate of Competency; and
  - have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
    - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;

- have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
- pass a MCA oral examination

For those holding Certificate of Competence as Chief Engineer (Tug) <3000kW or <6000kW <30 miles from UK safe haven (gained by oral examination only)

- To be eligible for the issue of Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <9000 kW Certificate of Competence a candidate must:
  - have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in Engineer Officer (restricted) syllabi:
    - General Engineering Science I & II;
    - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
    - Applied Marine Engineering;
    - Advanced Hotel Services and Ship Construction; and
  - have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
  - MCA oral examination

For those holding Certificate of Competence as Chief Engineer (Tug) <6000kW <30 miles from UK safe haven (gained by VQ and oral examination)

- To be eligible for the issue of Chief Engineer (Tug) <9000 kW certificate of Competence a candidate must:
  - have completed 6 months sea service on tugs of 4500 kW propulsion power or more; and
  - have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
  - MCA oral examination

For those holding Certificate of Competence as Engineer Officer of the Watch Unlimited (Motorships)

- To be eligible for the issue of Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <9000 kW Certificate of Competence a candidate must:
  - have 24 months sea service in the capacity of EOOW inclusive of 3 months EOOW tug service ; and
  - have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
    - General Engineering Science I & II ;
    - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
    - Applied Marine Engineering;
    - Advanced Hotel Services and Ship Construction; and
  - have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
  - pass MCA oral examination

- To be eligible for the issue of Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <3000 kW, less than

500 GT (endorsement) Certificate of Competence a candidate must:

- have 12 months sea service in the capacity of EOOW ,inclusive of 3 months EOOW tug service ; and
- have undertaken education and training programme leading to the completion of the following examinations specified in the engineer officer (restricted) syllabi:
  - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements
- have completed a MCA approved MNTB Human Element Leadership & Management (HELM) (operational level); and
- pass MCA oral examination

Entry into the tug industry from other Merchant Navy sectors

Due to the diverse nature of certification within the Merchant Navy it is not possible to list transfer arrangement for every case. Therefore any persons holding certification other than that shown above will be treated on a case by case basis and should contact:

Engineering
Seafarer Training & Certification
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road,
Southampton SO15 1EG

Tel: 02380329231
Email: engineering@mcga.gov.uk

Validity of examinations

Examinations are divided into academic (General Engineering Science) and professional subjects. The professional subject examinations and the MCA oral examination MUST be passed within a 3 year period **prior to the date of issue of a certificate of competency**. Successes in the academic written examinations remain valid for an indefinite period.