
Certificates of Competency as Ships' Cooks

This Notice supersedes M Notice No. 981

1. Vessels Required to Carry a Duly Certificated Ship's Cook

All United Kingdom ships of 1,000 gross tons or over (except pleasure craft or fishing vessels) which trade outside the Near Continental Trading Area are required to carry a duly certificated ship's cook if the majority of the crew live in the United Kingdom. This is a legal requirement of the Merchant Shipping (Ship's Cooks) Regulations 1981.

2. Duly Certificated Ships' Cooks must hold:

(a) a certificate of competency as ship's cook issued under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Certification of Ships' Cooks) Regulations 1981;

OR

(b) a certificate of competency as ship's cook previously granted in pursuance of Section 27(2) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1906;

OR

(c) a certificate of competency as ship's cook which is recognised by the Department of Transport as being equivalent to a certificate issued under the 1981 Ship's Cooks Regulations (see paragraph 7).

3. How to Qualify for a Certificate of Competency as Ship's Cook

To qualify for a Certificate candidates must be 20 years old and have:

(a) (i) attended an approved course (see paragraph 4) and have served one year at sea as second cook or cook assistant;

OR

(ii) hold any of the following certificates issued by the City & Guilds of London Institute— No. 705 (or the former No. 150 or No. 441) OR No. 706(1) (or former No. 147) OR 706(2) (or the former No. 151) OR Nos. 706(3), (4) and (5) (or the former No. 152) OR an equivalent course held by a Regional Examining Body, AND have served for not less than three months at sea in the rating of second cook or cook assistant;

OR

(iii) been issued with a certificate of cookery and catering issued by the Secretary of State for Defence plus an approved Certificate of Bread Making and have served three months sea service as second cook or cook assistant;

OR

(iv) served at sea for five years, at least four of which in the capacity of second cook or cook assistant;

OR

(v) served at sea for five years in the catering department as steward or stewardess or higher rating PLUS having completed Part 2 of the approved Ship's Cook Training Course.

AND

(b) Passed an approved examination for ships' cooks conducted at an approved school of cookery or other approved institution. (See list at paragraph 6)

4. Approved Ships' Cooks Training Courses

Approved training courses for ships' cooks are in two parts (Part 1 and Part 2) each part lasting six weeks. The minimum age of entry to Part 1 is 17 years nine months with a minimum of 12 months sea service in the Catering Department. After completion of Part 1 candidates are required to complete one year at sea in the rating of cook assistant or above before admission to Part 2 of the course.

5. Examinations

Examinations for the grant of a Certificate of Competency as ship's cook are conducted by those schools of nautical cookery or other like approved institutions which conduct Department of Transport approved courses (see paragraph 6). They comprise a test of ability to prepare meals, knowledge of food values, composition of varied and properly balanced menus, and the handling and storage of food on board ship. They also include practical tests in bread making.

NOTE A: If candidates are exempted from the requirement to attend an approved course of

training at an approved school of cookery by virtue of qualifications held and sea time completed they should particularly note that the examination for a ship's cook Certificate of Competency includes a practical test in bread making; they should therefore ensure that they are adequately instructed in this.

NOTE B: THERE IS NO EXEMPTION FROM THE EXAMINATION ON ANY GROUNDS.

6. Where to go for Training Courses and Examinations

- (1) Neath College
Dwr-y-Felin Road
Neath
West Glamorgan SA10 7RF
Tel: 0639 634271
- (2) City College
Hanover Campus
Canning Place
Liverpool L1 8BT
Tel: 051-709 0541
- (3) Glasgow College of Food Technology
230 Cathedral Street
Glasgow G1 2TG
Tel: 041-552 3751
- (4) National Sea Training College
Denton
Gravesend
Kent DA12 2HR
Tel: 0474 363656

Department of Transport
Marine Directorate
London WC1V 6LP
February 1992

© Crown copyright 1991

- (5) South Tyneside College
St George's Avenue
South Shields
Tyne and Wear NE34 6ET
Tel: 091-456 0403
- (6) The John Niven Further Education Centre
Lewis Street
Stranraer DG9 7AL
Tel: 0387 61261

7. Other Certificates of Competency as Ship's Cooks recognised by the Department of Transport

Certificates of Competency as Ships' Cooks issued by:

- (a) Canada
- (b) The Republic of Ireland
- (c) The Shipping Offices in Bombay, Calcutta, Chittagong or Karachi to persons who have completed two years at sea in the rating of second cook, baker or chief cook on board vessels of 1,000 gross tons or over

are recognised as having the same force as those issued under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Certification of Ships' Cooks) Regulations 1981.

8. Any enquiries about this M Notice may be made to DSG3B, 6th Floor, Sunley House, 90-93 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LP (Telephone: 071-405 6911).

ADDENDUM TO MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE No. M.1482

CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AS SHIP'S COOK

Please make the following addition to Paragraph 6 **“Where to go for Training Courses and Examinations”** in M.1482:

Aberdeen College of Further Education
Gallowgate
Aberdeen
AB9 1DN
Telephone: 0224 640366

Marine Directorate
Sunley House
May 1992

© Crown copyright 1992