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## **TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION GUIDANCE - PART 22**

### **Certificates of Competency for Deck Personnel Serving on Domestic Vessels Operating in Category 'D' Waters.**

Notice to all Owners, Masters, Deck and Engineer Officers and Ratings of Merchant Vessels and those concerned with Maritime Training.

*This notice should be read in conjunction with Marine Guidance Note 92(M) (or subsequent amendments).*

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#### *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 1997<sup>1</sup>.

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 MGNs as listed below.

#### *Key Points*

This Note supplements MGN 92, Part 2 of this series and contains additions to the deck officer certificate structure that will allow deck officers serving on vessels over 24 metres or 80gt in Category 'D' waters to undergo the necessary education and training, and examination to obtain an STCW 95 certificate of competency. These certificates will be endorsed 'For Service in Category 'D' Waters Only' until the restriction is lifted by a designated amount of sea service.

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<sup>1</sup>SI 1997/348 as amended by SI 1997/1911

**LATEST INDEX TO PARTS**

<u>Part No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Latest MGN Number</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
1	General requirements for certification and medical fitness	MGN 91 (M)	April 2000
2	Certificates of competency - deck department	MGN 92 (M)	April 2000
3	Certificates of competency - engine department	MGN 93 (M)	April 2000
4	Certificates of competency - radio personnel	MGN 214 (M)	May 2002
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7	Alternative certification - dual certification	MGN 7 (M)	April 2000
8	Education and training schemes	MGN 8 (M)	April 2000
9	Procedure for the issue and revalidation of certificates of competency, marine engine operator licences and tanker endorsements.	MGN 9 (M)	April 2000
10	Ratings	MGN 97 (M)	April 2000
11	Conduct of MCA oral examinations	MGN 69 (M)	April 2000
12	Safety training for concessionaires working on passenger ships	MGN 120 (M)	April 2000
13	Use of fishing vessel certificates of competency in standby, seismic survey, and oceanographic research vessels – revised arrangements	MGN 121 (M)	April 2000
14	STCW 95 application to certificates of service	MGN 116 (M)	April 2000
15	Certification of inshore tug personnel	MGN 209 (M)	April 2002
17	Certificates of competency or marine engine operators licences for service as an engineer officer on commercially and privately operated yachts and sail training vessels	MGN 156 (M)	Feb 2001
18	STCW 95 certificates of competency-conversion of tonnage limitations GRT - gt	MGN 164 (M)	Jan 2001
19	Certificates of equivalent competency	MGN 221 (M)	March 2003
20	Certificates of equivalent competency for fishing vessels	MGN 220 (F)	March 2003

21	Deck officer certificates of competency for service on commercially and privately operated yachts and sail training vessels	MGN 195 (M)	Feb 2002
22	Certificates of competency for deck personnel serving on domestic vessels operating in category 'D' waters	This Notice	Jan 2004

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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 Following representation from owners and operators of inshore craft and domestic vessels operating solely in Category 'D' waters, the deck officer certificate structure has been revised to allow officers, should they so wish, serving on these vessels to undertake education, training and examination for an STCW 95 Certificate of Competency (CoC).

1.2 Successful candidates will be issued with a CoC limited to service in Category 'D' waters as defined in Merchant Shipping Notice 1776 or any subsequent amendment. To lift this limitation a candidate will have to undertake a period of sea service as a trainee deck officer or deck rating, or as an officer in seagoing waters within a Specified Area whilst holding a Reg. II/3 CoC limited to Category 'D' waters. This sea service must be performed on merchant ships of at least 24 metres in length or not less than 80gt proceeding to sea.

## 2.0 Certificate Structure

2.1 To allow deck officers and ratings serving on vessels over 24 metres in length or 80gt operating in Category 'D' waters to obtain an STCW 95 CoC the following qualifications have been introduced:

- Officer of the Watch Reg. II/3, less than 500gt limited to Category 'D' Waters;
- Officer of the Watch Reg. II/3, less than 3000gt (Domestic Vessels only) limited to Specified Areas;
- Master Reg. II/3, less than 500gt limited to Category 'D' waters; and
- Master Reg. II/3 less than 3000gt (Domestic Vessels only) limited to a Specified Area.

2.2 An outline of this revised certificate structure and the interface with the main STCW 95 certificate structure as defined in MGN 92 can be found in Annex A.

## 3.0 Qualifying Sea Service

3.1 Only service on vessels over 24 metres in length or 80gt operating in Category 'D' waters will be recognised as qualifying service. Where a vessel operates in both Category 'C' and 'D' waters the time spent in Category 'D' waters will be apportioned accordingly.

3.2 A candidate may enter the certificate structure at the Officer of the Watch (OOW) level after satisfying the qualifying onboard service requirements (12 months service if followed an approved programme of training, otherwise 36 months) and by completing appropriate education and training 'A', and oral examination 'E' as detailed in MGN 92 and MGN 69 (or any subsequent amendment). The OOW certificate will also be endorsed with OOW less than 3000gt (Domestic Vessels only) limited to Specified Areas.

3.3 Successful candidates will be issued an STCW 95 CoC, namely:

- OOW Reg. II/3, less than 500gt limited to Category 'D' waters, and less than 3000gt (Domestic Vessels only) limited to Specified Areas.

3.4 Candidates who have obtained a limited OOW Reg. II/3 CoC as detailed above may, after a further 12 months onboard service in Category 'D' waters and successful completion of MCA oral examination 'D', be issued with:

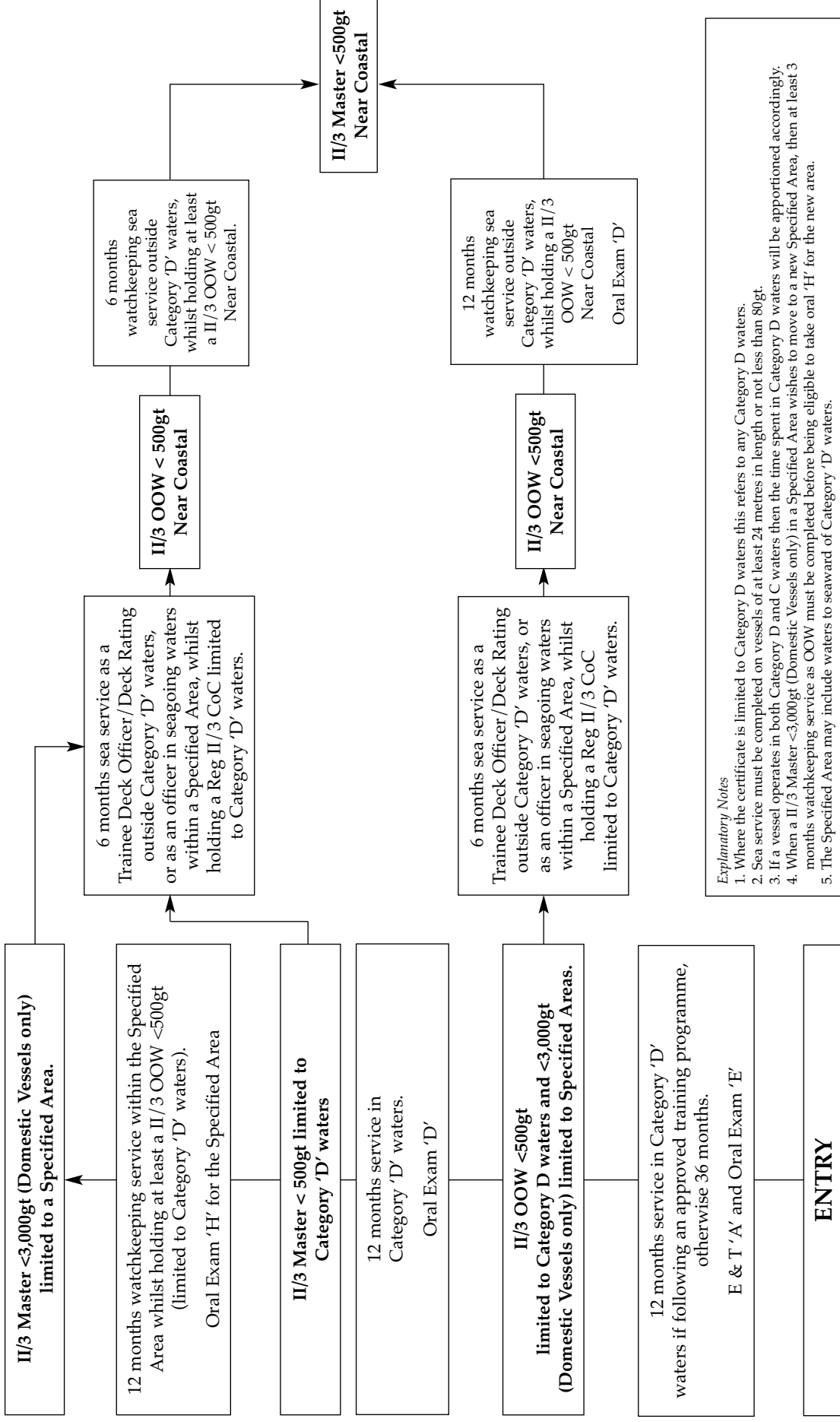
- Master Reg. II/3, less than 500gt limited to Category 'D' waters.

3.5 The OOW less than 3000gt (Domestic Vessels only) limited to Specified Areas limitations will be carried forward onto the higher CoC.

3.6 A candidate who has obtained a Master Reg. II/3 less than 500gt limited to Category 'D' waters may obtain a Master Reg. II/3 less than 3000gt (Domestic Vessels only) limited to a Specified Area by demonstrating 12 months watchkeeping service in the Specified Area whilst holding

- at least an OOW Reg. II/3 less than 500gt limited to Category 'D' waters and completing oral examination 'H' for the Specified Area.
- 3.7 The holder of a Master Reg. II/3 less than 500gt limited to Category 'D' waters, less than 3000gt (Domestic Vessels only) limited to a Specified Area wishing to add additional area(s) must complete 3 months watchkeeping service as an OOW in the additional area(s) and complete the local knowledge part of oral examination 'H' for the additional area(s). More than one additional area may be added in this way.
- 4.0 Lifting Limitations**
- 4.1 There are no facilities for a candidate to progress to a higher level restricted qualification other than for those detailed above.
- 4.2 Should a candidate wish to obtain a Near Coastal or Unlimited CoC the Category 'D' limitation will first need to be lifted.
- 4.3 Where a candidate operates in a Specified Area and the Specified Area includes an element of sea going service (that is service in waters outside categorised waters) the requirement for sea service may be met from sea service completed in that area.
- 4.4 Where combined 'at sea' service and Category 'D' waters service is presented for issue of a restricted certificate this will be treated on a pro-rata basis for lifting the limitation.
- 4.5 To lift the limitation on the OOW Reg. II/3 less than 500gt limited to Category 'D' waters a candidate must complete 6 months qualifying sea service on vessels over 24 metres or 80gt proceeding to sea, whilst holding this certificate. The qualifying sea service must be either as a trainee deck officer or deck rating outside Category 'D' waters or as an officer in seagoing waters within a Specified Area. On completion of this sea service the candidate will be issued with OOW Reg. II/3 less than 500gt Near Coastal.
- 4.6 To lift the limitation on a Master Reg. II/3 less than 500gt limited to Category 'D' waters a candidate must first hold OOW Reg. II/3 less than 500gt Near Coastal. To obtain this the candidate must complete 6 months qualifying sea service as above. A candidate must then complete an additional 6 months watchkeeping sea service on vessels over 24 metres or 80gt proceeding to sea whilst holding at least a Reg. II/3 OOW less than 500gt Near Coastal. This watchkeeping sea service will be outside Category 'D' waters or in seagoing waters within a Specified Area. On completion of this service the candidate will be issued with a Master Reg. II/3 less than 500gt Near Coastal.
- 5.0 Applications and Service Standards**
- 5.1 Applications for a certificate should be made using the form titled "Application for an Oral Exam Leading to the Issue of a Certificate of Competency (STCW95) for Masters, Chief Mates and Deck Officers in the Merchant Navy". These forms are available from Seafarer Training & Certification Branch or by download from the MCA website: contact details are given on Page 3 of this MGN.
- 5.2 Applications should be sent with **ALL** the required evidence of sea-service and documents as detailed in the application form together with the appropriate fee. Once all of these are received the application will normally be processed within our published Service Standards.
- 5.3 The Service Standards are:
- To assess applications for Oral Examinations within 28 days.
  - To assess applications for issue of Certificates of Competency within 14 days.
  - To respond to written requests for advice or information within 14 days.
- 6.0 Further Information**
- 6.1 Further information on the contents of this MGN can be obtained from any MCA Marine Office or from Seafarer Training & Certification Branch: contact details are given on Page 3 of this MGN.

**CATEGORY 'D' WATERS DECK OFFICER CERTIFICATE STRUCTURE**



*Explanatory Notes*  
 1. Where the certificate is limited to Category D waters this refers to any Category D waters.  
 2. Sea service must be completed on vessels of at least 24 metres in length or not less than 80gt.  
 3. If a vessel operates in both Category D and C waters then the time spent in Category D waters will be apportioned accordingly.  
 4. When a II/3 Master <3,000gt (Domestic Vessels only) in a Specified Area wishes to move to a new Specified Area, then at least 3 months watchkeeping service as OOW must be completed before being eligible to take oral 'H' for the new area.  
 5. The Specified Area may include waters to seaward of Category 'D' waters.



