
Training for ECDIS as Primary Means of Navigation

Notice to all Ship Owners, Masters and Deck Officers of Merchant and Fishing Vessels, Commercially and Privately Operated Yachts and Sail Training Vessels, and those concerned with Maritime Training.

*This notice should be read with MGN 92, MSN 1367 and MSN 1802 and replaces MIN 405.
This MIN expires 15 August 2014*

Summary

This notice clarifies what training is acceptable for Masters and Deck Officers of UK registered vessels which have Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (**ECDIS**) as their primary means of navigation. This MIN is not applicable to Deck Officers revalidating their UK Certificate of Competency (CoC). Seafarers applying to revalidate their UK CoC should refer to MIN 423.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Master and all Navigational Officers of UK Flagged vessels, which have Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (**ECDIS**) as their primary means of navigation, are required by their Safe Manning Document (**SMD**) and Port State Control Committee Instruction 35/2002/02 (rev1), to have completed both **generic and ship specific equipment ECDIS training**. This notice is to clarify what training is acceptable.

2. ECDIS Generic Training

2.1 After detailed consideration and in agreement with the Merchant Navy Training Board (**MNTB**) Technical Committee it has been agreed that anyone who holds a completion certificate for a MCA approved NARAS course (operational or management) issued after 1 January 2005 meets the requirement of ECDIS generic training.

2.2 The completion of any one of the following will be recognised as meeting the ECDIS generic training requirements:

- MCA approved Navigation Radar and ARPA Simulator (NARAS)/ Navigation Aids and Equipment and Simulator Training (NAEST) (Operational Level) course completed on or after 1 January 2005; or
- MCA approved NARAS/ NAEST (management level) course completed on or after 1 January 2005; or

- An ECDIS programme based on the IMO Model ECDIS course (1.27) approved by the MCA; or
- ECDIS simulator training course in compliance with the current IMO Model Course 1.27 and approved by an Administration whose CoC we accept for the issue of a Certificate of Equivalent Competency (CEC).

2.3 Carriage of any one of the above certificates, together with reference to this notice, should satisfy Port State Control Officers (**PSCO**) that the holder meets the required ECDIS generic training requirement.

3. ECDIS Ship Specific Equipment Training

3.1 ECDIS ship specific equipment training should relate to the make and model of the equipment fitted of the ship on which they are currently serving i.e. it will be necessary to attend a training course for each different system a Master or Navigation Officer is expected to operate. This training should build on the MCA approved ECDIS generic training, and be delivered by the manufacturer; the manufactures approved agent or a trainer who has attended such a programme. Trickle down training (i.e. one officer training another) is not acceptable as, inevitably, it leads to incomplete knowledge of the equipments capabilities, and especially the lesser used functions, being passed on.

3.2 This equipment specific training should concentrate on the functionality and effective use of the system onboard. This training should at least cover the following areas:

- familiarisation with available functions
- familiarisation with the menu structure
- display setup
- setting of safety values
- recognition of alarms and malfunction indicators and the actions to be taken
- route planning
- route monitoring
- changing over to backup systems
- loading charts and licenses
- updating of software

4. Further Information

4.1 If further clarification is required please contact the MCA using the details on page 3.

More Information

Seafarer Training and Certification Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 1/21
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9239
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9252
e-mail: exams.section@mcga.gov.uk

General Inquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

MCA Website Address: www.dft.gov.uk/mca

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