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## **Experienced Seafarer to Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOOW)**

**Notice to all Shipowners, Masters, Engine Officers, Ratings, holders of Marine Engine Operator Licence (MEOL) and Senior Marine Engine Operator Licence (SMEOL)**

*This notice replaces MGN 278 (M)*

*This MIN comes in to force three months after date of Publication and is valid until 30 November 2018*

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### **Summary**

This training programme is designed for experienced seafarers who have worked at sea within the engine room.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) 1978, as amended and its associated code (STCW Code), to which the United Kingdom is a signatory, sets out the minimum requirements for certifying engineer officers and engine-room watch ratings.
- 1.2 To gain a UK Certificate of Competency (CoC) you must:
  - meet the medical fitness and eyesight standards as required by the merchant shipping (medical Examination Standards) Regulation 2002, as amended<sup>1</sup>;
  - complete the minimum period of sea service;
  - reach the required vocational and academic standard;
  - complete ancillary safety training;
  - complete ancillary technical training; and
  - pass an oral examination carried out by an MCA examiner.
- 1.3 This notice describes the training scheme you must complete as an experienced engine room rating/Marine Engine Operators Licence (MEOL)/ Senior Marine Engine Operators Licence (SMEOL) to gain an Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOOW) CoC.
- 1.4 The training is a structured programme comprising of:
  - a training record book (TRB) completed whilst onboard;

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<sup>1</sup> SI 2002/2005 amended by SI2005/1919 or any subsequent amendments. Please see the MCA website for further information regarding accepted evidence of medical fitness.



- approved sea service;
- education and training;
- workshop skills;
- STCW safety training; and
- a final assessment.

## 2. Sea Service

- 2.1 For the purpose of this notice sea service is defined as time spent on board a ship, relevant to the issue of a certificate or other qualification<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.2 Sporadic use of main propelling machinery: Ships in sporadic use are defined as those which spend more than 1/3 of their time in port or at anchor. Sea service on such vessels cannot be counted in full and is calculated as one and a half times the number of days spent on passage.
- 2.3 In cases where a vessel is equipped with more than one propulsion engine, the registered propulsion power will be considered as the propulsion power of the vessel.
- 2.4 Service in a General Purpose (GP) capacity (defined as a rating trained and employed in both deck and engine room duties) will be assessed individually based on the sea service testimonials. Only the time spent on the engineering duties will be counted.
- 2.5 Service may be performed on a vessel of any flag.

## 3. Proof of Sea Service and Testimonials

- 3.1 Before being considered for oral examination you are expected to prove the full amount of qualifying sea service for a CoC. All sea service required must be completed and verified to the satisfaction of the MCA.
- 3.2 Evidence of sea service can be presented in the following forms and **must** be supported by sea service testimonials:
- merchant navy discharge book entry or
  - certificates of discharge (Annex C)
- 3.3 Your sea service testimonials should preferably be in the format of Annex B. If details of sea service and watchkeeping service are not included in the testimonials then it must be verified by a separate certificate of service in addition to your discharge book/discharge certificate. Testimonials or certificates of service should be signed by the Chief Engineer of the vessel in which the qualifying service has been performed.
- 3.4 In exceptional circumstances, this testimonial may be signed by the Master or responsible engineer superintendent of the company who is aware of the facts.

## 4. Starting a Training Programme

- 4.1 You must register with an MCA approved training centre to be issued with a TRB and start the study programme.

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<sup>2</sup> MGN 93 (m) Training and Guidance – part 3 Certificates of Competency - Engine Department or any subsequent amendments.



4.2 To be eligible to register on a study programme you must hold the following:

- a) At least 21 months approved seagoing service in the engine room of a merchant vessel having propulsion power of 350 kW or more;  
**Note:** Engine room seagoing service consisting of cleaning duties **only** will not be accepted towards this training programme.
- b) Basic STCW safety training certificates<sup>3</sup>;
  - I. Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code A-VI/1-1);
  - II. Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code A-VI/1-2);
  - III. Elementary First Aid (STCW Code A-VI/1-3); and
  - IV. Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (STCW Code A-VI/1-4).**Note:** if you hold an MEOL/SMEOL you will have previously completed the above training.
- c) Security Awareness Certificate (STCW Code A-VI/6-1, paragraph 4)<sup>3</sup>;
- d) Engine Room Watch Rating Certificate (STCW Reg. III/4)<sup>3</sup> or MEOL/SMEOL; and
- e) Medical Fitness Certificate (ENG1) or MCA recognised equivalent certificate<sup>1</sup>.

4.3 List of MCA approved training centres are available from our website.

## 5. Education and Training

5.1 Once registered with the college you must complete the following education and training both at sea and shorebased.

- a) Onboard (at sea) Training
  - i. Complete nine months approved sea service in the engine room of vessels of 750 kW or more including six months service as the first assistant to the Engineer Officer in charge of the Watch whilst undertaking watchkeeping or UMS duties.
  - ii. Complete the Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB) Training Record Book (TRB) while completing the sea service under the training scheme; and
  - iii. Maintain a workbook describing the TRB tasks carried out.
- b) Shorebased Education and Training.
  - i. Education and training meeting the requirements of STCW code (section A-III/1 and Table III/1)<sup>4</sup>;
  - ii. MNTB workshop skills at operational level (three months);

<sup>3</sup> Accepted if issued either by the Administration or by the training provider approved by the Administration of a state/country signatory to the STCW convention.

<sup>4</sup> This training and education can be achieved by various means e.g. MNTB approved Foundation Degree (FD), Higher National Certificate (HNC), Higher National Diploma (HND) in Marine Engineering or other MCA approved programme (e.g. examination route).



**Note:** You may gain part or full exemption from this workshop skills providing you have previously completed similar training of the same level accepted by the MCA.

iii. Following STCW safety training<sup>5</sup>;

- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (STCW Code A-VI/2-1);
- Training in Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code A-VI/3); and
- Proficiency in Medical First Aid (STCW Code A-VI/4-1).

**Note:** if you hold an MEOL/SMEOL you will have previously completed the above training.

## 6. Applying for a Notice of Eligibility (NOE)

- 6.1 In order to sit the professional examinations (Engineering Knowledge) and the MCA oral examination you will need to obtain a NOE from the MCA. Application forms can be found on the MCA website.
- 6.2 To be issued with an NOE you must submit the following to the Seafarer Training and Certification branch of the MCA:
- a) Evidence of 33 months approved sea service in engine department inclusive of nine months sea service under the training scheme (paragraph 5.1 a i)
  - b) Completed MNTB TRB;
  - c) Completed workbook; and
  - d) Evidence of acceptance (college letter) to an approved training and education program meeting the standard of STCW code section A-III/1.
- 6.3 Once you hold an NOE you may apply to an MCA Marine Office of your choice to arrange your oral examination. The syllabus for oral examination is available in MGN 69<sup>6</sup> which can be downloaded from our website.

## 7. Assessment

- 7.1 Examinations are divided into academic and professional subjects. Final assessment is in the form of IAMI written academic (General Engineering Science) and professional (Engineering Knowledge) examinations followed by the MCA oral examination.
- 7.2 If you have completed an MNTB approved HNC/HND programme in Marine Engineering then you are exempt from the Academic subjects<sup>7</sup>.
- 7.3 If you hold engineering qualifications (HNC/HND or equivalent) completed in UK or an EU state you may apply for an exemption from the academic subjects only. The modules of your engineering programme must show a match of at least 70% with the IAMI

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<sup>5</sup> The training courses will be accepted if completed from a training provider that is approved by one of the following maritime Administrations: United Kingdom (MCA); Canada; Eire; India; New Zealand; Pakistan; South Africa; and any EU State. Please note this is subject to change.

<sup>6</sup> MGN 69 (M) Conduct of MCA Oral Examinations or any subsequent amendment

<sup>7</sup> At Present the academic subject are General Engineering science A & B. Please note this is subject to change.



syllabus and you must secure at least 50% pass marks in the respective modules. To apply please contact IAMI ([iamiexemption@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:iamiexemption@hotmail.co.uk)) .

## 8. Validity of your Exams

- 8.1 The professional subject examinations and the MCA oral examination **MUST** be passed within a three year period prior to the date of issue of a CoC. Successes in the academic written examinations remain valid indefinitely.

## 9. Applying for a CoC

- 9.1 To be issued with the EOOW CoC you must submit the following with your NOE showing a pass in the oral examination:
- a) Certificates showing pass in the academic subjects or IAMI exemption or an approved HNC/HND.
  - b) Certificates showing a pass in the IAMI Engineering Knowledge (EK) examinations;
  - c) Approved Human Element, Leadership and Management (HELM) operational level course completion certificate;  
**Note:** only required if not completed in the approved education programme
  - d) Completion certificates of the STCW safety and security training (please see paragraph 4 and 5)
  - e) High Voltage (HV) operational level training completion certificate;  
**Note:** only required if not completed in the approved education programme
  - f) Evidence of completion of workshop skills; and
  - g) Medical Fitness Certificate (ENG1) or MCA recognised equivalent certificate<sup>1</sup>.

## 10. Revalidation

- 10.1 Any CoC issued under the STCW convention remains valid for five years from the date of issue. You must hold a current CoC whilst serving on board. You will need to apply to seafarer Training and Certification branch of the MCA to revalidate your CoC.



## More Information

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

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9231  
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9252  
e-mail: [engineering@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:engineering@mcga.gov.uk)

General Inquiries: [infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)

MCA Website Address: [www.dft.gov.uk/mca](http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca)

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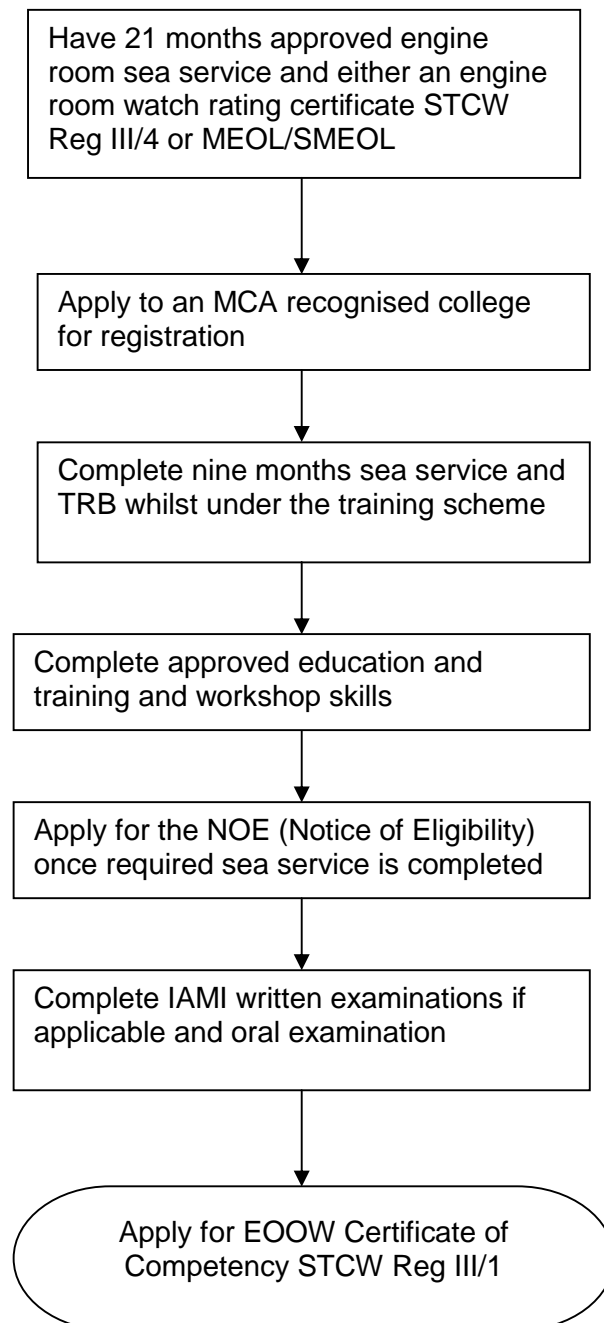


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***Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas***



**Progression of Experienced Seafarers to Engineer Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competency STCW Reg III/1**



Company Name

Engine-room Rating - Testimonial

Address: .....  
.....

Phone: .....

Fax: .....

E-mail: .....

Part 1 – Watchkeeping service

This is to certify that:

Full name of rating: .....

Date of birth: .....

Discharge book number: .....

has served on:

Name of vessel: .....

Official number: .....

Type or make of the main propelling machinery: .....

.....

Power (kW): .....

Shaft power (kW): .....

Type or make of the auxiliary machinery: .....

Type of boilers: .....

from: ...../...../.....

to:...../...../.....

During this period, the rating named above carried out the following engine-room watchkeeping or Unattended Machinery Spaces (UMS) vessel duty service (under the supervision of a certificated engineer officer) for at least eight hours out of every 24 hours while the vessel was on **seagoing voyages**.

.....weeks.....days





The named rating carried out the following duties and tasks.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Leave of absence was granted as follows.

.....  
.....

**Part 2 – Testimonial**

My report on the service of the rating is as follows.

**Conduct:** .....  
.....  
.....

**Experience and ability:**  
.....  
.....

**Part 3 – Official endorsement**

**Name (in BLOCK LETTERS) of the Chief Engineer Officer:**

.....

**Signature of the Chief Engineer Officer:**

.....

**Ship's or company's stamp and date:**

In exceptional circumstances, this testimonial may be signed by a responsible engineer superintendent.



### Engine-Room Rating Certificate of Discharge

#### The Merchant Shipping (Crew Agreements, Lists of Crew and Discharge of Seamen) Regulations 1991. Regulation 25 (1)(a)(ii)

To be completed in block letters

Surname	Other names (in full)
Discharge book No. (if any)	Date and place of birth
Name of vessel	Port of choice
Official No.	IMO No.
Gross or register tonnage	Description of voyage
Capacity in which employed	Grade and No. of any certificate of competency
Date and place of joining	Date and place of leaving

Companies stamp:

Date of issue

Signature of Master or other authorised person

Signature of Seaman

**Note:-** Any person, other than the person to whom this certificate of discharge was issued, who comes into possession of it should deliver it to an MCA Marine Office or send it to the Maritime Coastguard Agency, Spring place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton SO15 1EG.

