



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION GUIDANCE – PART 8

Education and Training Schemes

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

This Note should be read in conjunction with Merchant Shipping Notice No MSN 1692(M) (or subsequent amendments) and Parts 1–3 of this series of Guidance Notes

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 1997¹.

In order for the guidance to be easy to use and to keep up-to-date, the individual Parts will retain the same Part number but the MGN number may change if and when revisions are necessary. The front sheet of any revised Part will list the latest MGN numbers. Any reference to “Part” in this Note relates to this series of Guidance Notes as listed below.

Key Point

This Part gives information and guidance on the education and training schemes available to seafarers wishing to obtain merchant navy certificates of competency by either the Vocational Qualification (VQ) or traditional written examination routes.

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¹ SI 1997/348 as amended by SI 1997/1911

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15	Certification of inshore tug personnel	MGN 117(M)	April 2000
16	Certification of inshore craft personnel (other than tugs)	MGN 126(M)	Not yet issued

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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 The Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations 1997 (the Regulations) implement in the United Kingdom some of the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended in 1995 (STCW 95)², and its associated Code (STCW Code).
- 1.2 Under the Regulations, every candidate for an STCW 95 certificate of competency as deck or engineer officer must complete MCA-approved education and training and meet standards of competence laid down in the STCW Code.
- 1.3 Since September 1997, all new entrant deck and engineer officer cadets have been enrolled on approved training programmes which achieve these standards of competence by the attainment of a Vocational Qualification (VQ) based on continuous assessment of knowledge and performance.
- 1.4 Existing seafarers and others not enrolled on such approved cadet training programmes will be able to meet the required standards for all levels of certification by following either a VQ route described in paragraphs 4–7 below, or a traditional non-VQ route based on written examinations and assessment described in paragraphs 8–11 below.
- 1.5 Both routes involve an oral examination conducted by an MCA examiner, details of which are given in Part 11.

2.0 Certificates of Competency

- 2.1 The following STCW 95 certificates of competency are available:

Deck department – unlimited

- Officer in charge of a navigational watch-OOW (STCW Reg II/1)
- Chief Mate (STCW Reg II/2)
- Master (STCW Reg II/2)

Deck department – ships of less than 3,000 gt

- Chief Mate (STCW Reg II/2)
- Master (STCW Reg II/2)

Deck department – ships on near-coastal³ voyages

- Officer in charge of a navigational watch (OOW) on ships of less than 500 gt (STCW Reg II/3)
- Master on ships of less than 500 gt (STCW Reg II/3)
- Chief Mate on ships of less than 3,000 gt (STCW Reg II/2)

²Available from the Publications Department, the International Maritime Organization, 4, Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR

³Defined in the UK as within 150 miles from a safe haven in the UK and 30 miles from a safe haven in Eire

- Chief Mate on ships of over 3,000 gt (STCW Reg II/2)
- Master on domestic passenger ships of less than 3,000gt operating within 30 miles of a nominated safe haven (STCW Reg II/3)
- Master on ships of over 500 gt (STCW Reg II/2)

Engine department – unlimited

- Officer in charge of an engineering watch (OOW) or designated duty engineer in a periodically unmanned engine-room (STCW Reg III/1)
- Second Engineer officer (STCW Reg III/2)
- Chief Engineer officer (STCW Reg III/2)

Engine department – ships of less than 3,000 kW registered power on near-coastal voyages

- Second Engineer officer (STCW Reg III/3)
- Chief Engineer officer (STCW Reg III/3)

Engine department – ships of less than 6,000 kW propulsion power on near-coastal voyages

- Second Engineer officer (STCW Reg III/2)
(also Second Engineer on ships of less than 3,000 kW on unlimited voyages)
- Chief Engineer officer (STCW Reg III/2)
(also Chief Engineer on ships of less than 3,000 kW on unlimited voyages)

2.2 Engineer officers on ships of below 750 kW are not required to hold certificates of competency. However, Marine Engine Operator Licences (MEOL) and Senior Marine Engine Operator Licences (SMEOL) for personnel serving on ships of between 350 and 750 kW will be available, although these will not carry an STCW 95 endorsement.

3.0 Transitional Arrangements for Pre-STCW 95 Certificates

3.1 Until 31 July 1999 (except as indicated below), candidates who commenced sea service or approved education and training programmes prior to 1 August 1998 under either the examination or VQ route were awarded the following STCW 78 certificates of competency, endorsements or licences, which were provided for in the Merchant Shipping (Certification of Deck Officer) Regulations 1985 and the Merchant Shipping (Certification of Marine Engineer Officers and Licensing of Marine Engine Operators) Regulations 1986:

Deck Officer

Class 5
Class 4
Class 3
Class 2
Command Endorsements
Class 1

Engineer Officer

Class 4 (available until 31 December 1999)
Class 3
Class 2
Chief Engineer Service Endorsements
Class 1

Licences

Marine Engine Operator
Senior Marine Engine Operator

- 3.2 Any candidate who was not successful at obtaining an STCW 78 certificate of competency before 31 July 1999 will be allowed a further period for second or subsequent attempts, until December 2000.
- 3.3 Candidates who obtain certificates of competency under this transitional arrangement will be issued with a certificate that complies with STCW 78. For continued use beyond 31 January 2002, such certificates will require revalidation to comply with STCW 95 in accordance with the arrangements set out in Part 9 and MSN 1692 (M).

THE VQ ROUTE TO STCW 95 CERTIFICATES

4.0 General

- 4.1 Merchant Shipping Notice No. M1634 introduced the concept of Vocational Qualifications (VQs) for merchant navy certificates. Essentially, a candidate for a certificate of competency who:
- .1 obtains an appropriate National Vocational Qualification (NVQ), Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) or a specified group of units;
 - .2 completes the required sea service;
 - .3 is medically fit; and
 - .4 pays the appropriate fee;
- will be granted entry to the MCA oral examination, success in which will result in the issue of the certificate of competency.
- 4.2 Candidates for an unrestricted certificate of competency as **Navigating Officer of the Watch or Engineer Officer of the Watch** must achieve a VQ at level 3 in Marine Vessel Operations or Marine Vessel Engineering, respectively.
- 4.3 Candidates for an unrestricted certificate of competency as **Chief Mate or Second Engineer Officer** must achieve a VQ at level 4 in Marine Vessel Operations or Marine Vessel Engineering, respectively.
- 4.4 Candidates for an unrestricted certificate of competency as **Master or Chief Engineer Officer** must achieve additional units at level 4. The additional units may be credited towards a level 5 VQ, which is currently under development.
- 4.5 Candidates for an unrestricted certificate of competency as **Chief Mate or Second Engineer Officer** who complete the underpinning knowledge required by VQ level 4 in Marine Vessel Operations or Marine Vessel Engineering respectively, may opt to complete specified units at this level. Such candidates would also be required to sit the MCA/SQA papers from the examination route specified below in paragraph 9.2.3.2 (deck) or 10.2.4.3 (engineer). Candidates will be eligible for the reduced sea service detailed in Part 2, Table 3.
- 4.6 Candidates for an unrestricted certificate of competency as **Master or Chief Engineer Officer** who have completed all requirements in paragraph 4.5 above will be required to complete the underpinning knowledge for the VQ level 4 units specified in paragraph 4.4 above. In addition, candidates for Chief Engineer officer certification will be required to take the MCA/SQA papers from the written examination specified in paragraph 10.3.3.3 below.
- 4.7 Also under development are alternative combinations of units at VQ levels 3 and 4, catering for other, restricted certificates of competency.

4.8 All the requirements relating to approved education and training and ancillary training in safety and technical subjects are subsumed within the VQ units, although separate certificates will be issued for the mandatory short training programmes.

5.0 How it Works

5.1 The key features of the VQ system are:

- .1 the accumulation of evidence that a candidate possesses relevant knowledge and skills to the standards laid down in the VQ and can apply them in practice;
- .2 the provision of a mechanism known as Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) whereby prior learning and experience can be taken into account, thus avoiding unnecessary repetition of previous training.

5.2 Achievement of the VQ involves:

- .1 approved education and training which includes the knowledge, understanding and proficiencies listed in the STCW Code;
- .2 tuition in basic principles and underpinning knowledge;
- .3 completion of mandatory short training programmes;
- .4 on-board training, closely monitored and supervised by certificated officers and documented in a Record Book or Portfolio, whilst completing the necessary sea service;
- .5 assessment of evidence by specially trained and appointed staff at an approved assessment centre; currently, approved assessment centres are located at nautical and marine engineering colleges in the United Kingdom.

5.3 Award of the qualification is entirely dependent on the assessor being satisfied that the standards have been achieved.

5.4 The assessment process is verified as part of the quality standards systems operated by the bodies which award the qualification. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the awarding body is EdExcel (formerly BTEC); in Scotland it is the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)(formerly SCOTVEC).

5.5 As well as classroom teaching, some assessment centres may be able to offer other means of study, including distance learning and guided self study.

6.0 Structure

6.1 The structure of the system will typically involve the following stages:

Stage 1 Pre-entry: prospective candidates contact an assessment centre and are provided with information and guidance. If they already hold a certificate of competency or have experience which could be credited towards the qualification being sought, they may be invited to complete a questionnaire to help the centre prepare for initial assessment and thus speed up the administration process;

Stage 2 Assessment centre: completion of mandatory pre-sea training (new entrants only) and initial education and training. Preparation for further development through the VQ system, including the development of an individual training plan agreed between the candidate and the assessment centre;

Stage 3 Ship-board training and experience: applying principles in practice and gathering and recording evidence in a structured manner in a Record Book or Portfolio;

Stage 4 Assessment centre: assessment of knowledge, skills and ship-board performance evidence against the standards in the VQ units; further education and training as required; award of any VQ units where standards have been achieved; if appropriate, award of VQ and preparation for the MCA oral examination. Otherwise;

Stage 5 Further ship-board training and experience: consolidation and application of education and training; gathering and recording evidence for further units as required to achieve VQ;

Stage 6 Assessment centre: final assessment of knowledge, skills and ship-board performance evidence against the standards in the VQ units; award of additional VQ units where standards have been achieved; if appropriate, award of VQ and preparation for the MCA oral examination;

Stage 7 MCA Oral examination: award of a certificate of competency to successful candidates.

6.2 The above is for guidance only. The precise structure of the shore-based and sea-going stages may vary from centre to centre, and some of the stages may be combined, depending on the candidate's previous qualifications and prior experience. However, most centres will offer programmes of education and training which, together with training aboard ship, will cover all the requirements for a certificate of competency.

6.3 It is expected that the majority of candidates will undertake VQ based training within a structured framework of standard blocks of training and study, under the auspices of an employing company or other sponsoring organisation.

7.0 Watchkeeping and Sea Service

7.1 Sea service requirements are summarised below under each certificate. Further details are set out in Part 1 (general), Part 2 (deck) and Part 3 (engineer) .

NON-VQ ROUTE TO STCW 95 CERTIFICATES

8.0 Revised Arrangements for Written Examinations

8.1 The traditional system of service at sea, mandatory short training programmes and approved education leading to written examinations will be maintained for some time for the certificates referred to below, as an alternative to the VQ route. Arrangements for other certificates may be developed if there is sufficient demand.

8.2 A pass in each part of every examination ie written, MCA oral and, where appropriate, signals, will remain valid for a period of 3 years. Passes in examinations for Higher National Diplomas (HND) and Ordinary National Diplomas (OND) and Certificates of Achievement will remain valid for certification purposes for 7 years.

8.3 Other requirements concerning eligibility for the issue of a certificate of competency are set out in Parts 2, 3 and 9.

9.0 DECK OFFICER CERTIFICATES

9.1 Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch – OOW (STCW Reg II/I)

9.1.1 Deck officer candidates who are not following approved cadet training programmes will be required to comply with one of the following:

- .1 **Cadets not following MNTB approved programmes, and ratings** with 36 months sea service in the deck department (48 months if service was as a General Purpose rating) must have spent at least 6 of the last 12 months sea service on duties associated with bridge watchkeeping under the supervision of a certificated deck officer.
- .2 **Certificated radio officers** with at least 36 months service on merchant vessels will be required to complete *either*:
 - .1 a further 18 months undertaking duties in both deck and radio departments *or*
 - .2 a further 12 months as a deck rating or trainee deck officer

whilst maintaining a record of training in an approved Training Record Book obtainable from the Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB). In both cases at least 6 months must be spent on duties associated with bridge watchkeeping under the supervision of a certificated deck officer.

- .3 **Royal Navy officers** (Warfare Branch) with more than 36 months RN sea service will be required to complete a minimum of 3 months sea service on merchant vessels.
- .4 **Holders of Deck Officer (Fishing Vessel) Class 1 or Skipper (Full)** certificates of competency will be not required to undertake sea service on merchant ships prior to undertaking an STCW 95 Reg II/1 certificate of competency.
- .5 **Holders of Deck Officer (Fishing Vessel)** certificates of competency, other than those described above, will be required to complete 3 months sea service on merchant vessels.
- .6 **Persons who have served on fishing vessels or RN ships** in the deck department (other than those described above) with more than 36 months sea service will be required to complete a minimum of 6 months sea service in the deck department on merchant ships, which must be spent on duties associated with bridge watchkeeping under the supervision of a certificated deck officer.
- .7 **Certificated engineer officers** will be required to complete 12 months sea service as a trainee deck officer whilst maintaining a record of training in an approved Training Record Book obtainable from the MNTB. At least 6 months must be spent on duties associated with bridge watchkeeping under the supervision of a certificated deck officer.

9.1.2 Sea service must be recorded/endorsed in the seafarer's discharge book and/or certificate(s) of discharge and be supported by testimonials signed by the Master.

9.1.3 Candidates will also be required to:

- .1 follow an approved programme of education and training which includes:
 - .1 knowledge, understanding and proficiencies listed in the STCW Code;
 - .2 ancillary training and other requirements listed in Part 2 of this series of guidance notes;
 - .3 the award of a Signals Certificate (valid for 3 years);

- 4 the award of Part 1 of a Higher National Diploma in Nautical Science (or Certificates of Achievement in individual units), awarded by EdExcel (BTEC) or the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA); *then*
 - 2 pass external written examinations administered by the SQA in the following subjects:
 - 1 coastal navigation
 - 2 operational safety; *and*
 - 3 pass the MCA oral examination.
- 9.1.4 Ex-RN officers and holders of fishing vessel deck officer certificates of competency may qualify for exemption from some of the HND and SQA examinations (see Part 9).
- 9.1.5 Holders of a Deck Class 5 certificate of competency may obtain an Officer of the Watch (unlimited) STCW 95 Reg II/1 certificate by gaining an HND Certificate of Achievement in "Ocean and Offshore Navigation" from HND Part 1 (currently part of the Deck Class 4 written examinations) or the relevant unit from VQ level 3 in Marine Vessel Operations. The Chief Mate capacity of the Deck Class 5 certificate will be carried forward as valid for ships less than 3,000 gt in the Limited European Area.
- 9.1.6 Holders of Deck Class 1 (Fishing Vessel) certificates of competency may obtain an Officer of the Watch (unlimited) STCW 95 Reg II/1 certificate of competency by producing evidence of having completed one of the following:
 - 1 MCA/SQA Cargo Operations and Stability paper from the OOW written examinations ;
 - 2 the appropriate unit on Marine Vessel Operations in VQ level 3 (currently Unit C2);
 - 3 the Cargo Handling modules from the Standby Ship Operators Association and the endorsement.
- 9.1.7 All candidates will also have to meet ancillary course requirements including GMDSS, EDH, PSC&RB, Advanced Fire Fighting, Medical First Aid and Signals. Navigation, Radar and ARPA simulator (NARAS) certificates at the operational level will not be required for those who already hold ENS and NCC (Fishing) certificates.
- 9.2 Chief Mate – Unlimited (STCW Reg II/2)**
- 9.2.1 Candidates will be required to complete 18 months sea service whilst holding either a certificate of competency as watchkeeping officer issued in accordance with Regulation II/1 of STCW 95, a Class 3 or Class 4 deck officer certificate of competency issued under the 1985 Merchant Shipping regulations or an equivalent certificate of competency issued under the 1894 Merchant Shipping Act.
- 9.2.2 Sea service must be recorded/endorsed in the seafarer's discharge book and/or certificate(s) of discharge and be supported by testimonials signed by the Master.
- 9.2.3 Candidates will also be required to:
 - 1 follow an approved programme of education and training which includes:
 - 1 knowledge, understanding and proficiencies listed in the STCW Code;
 - 2 ancillary training and other requirements listed in Part 2;

- .3 the award of a Signals Certificate (valid for 3 years – only required when that awarded for the II/1 certificate of competency has expired);
 - .4 the award of Part 2 of a Higher National Diploma in Nautical Science (or Certificates of Achievement in individual units), awarded by EdExcel (BTEC) or the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA); *then*
- .2 pass external written examinations administered by the SQA in the following subjects:
- .1 navigation
 - .2 stability; *and*
 - .3 pass the MCA oral examination.

9.2.4 Ex-RN officers may qualify for exemption from certain of the SQA examinations (see Part 9).

9.3 Master – Unlimited (STCW Reg II/2)

9.3.1 Candidates will be required to complete 36 months sea service as a watchkeeping officer, including 18 months whilst holding a Chief Mate (unlimited) or Deck Officer Class 2 certificate of competency.

9.3.2 Sea service must be recorded/endorsed in the seafarer's discharge book and/or certificate(s) of discharge and be supported by testimonials signed by the Master.

9.3.3 Candidates who possess:

- a Chief Mate certificate issued in accordance with Regulation II/2 of STCW 95, obtained by following the route described at 9.2 above, or
- a Chief Mate certificate issued in accordance with Regulation II/2 of STCW 95, obtained by revalidating a Class 2 Deck Officer certificate of competency issued after 1 January 1988 under the 1985 Merchant Shipping regulations, or
- a Class 2 Deck Officer certificate of competency issued after 1 January 1988 under the 1985 Merchant Shipping regulations

will be required to pass the MCA oral examination.

9.3.4 Candidates who possess:

- a Chief Mate certificate issued in accordance with Regulation II/2 of STCW 95, obtained by revalidating either a Class 2 Deck Officer certificate of competency issued prior to 1 January 1988 under the 1985 Merchant Shipping regulations or an equivalent certificate of competency issued under the 1894 Merchant Shipping Act, or
- a Class 2 Deck Officer certificate of competency issued prior to 1 January 1988 under the 1985 Merchant Shipping regulations or an equivalent certificate of competency issued under the 1894 Merchant Shipping Act

will be required to:

- .1 follow an approved programme of education and training and obtain a Certificate of Achievement in the following subjects:

- .1 navigation instrumentation
- .2 engineering and control systems
- .3 business and law
- .4 ship construction and stability
- .5 navigation– passage planning; *or*
- .2 hold a UK Higher National Diploma in Nautical Science awarded by EdExcel (BTEC) or the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA); *or*
- .3 hold a UK degree in Nautical Science or Maritime Technology which is deemed at least equivalent to an HND in Nautical Science; *and*
- .4 follow an approved programme of education and training and pass external written examinations administered by the SQA in:
 - .1 ship stability
 - .2 navigation; *and*
- .5 pass the MCA oral examination.

9.3.5 All candidates must submit a valid Proficiency in Medical Care certificate and a GMDSS (GOC) certificate

10.0 ENGINEER OFFICER CERTIFICATES

10.1 Officer in Charge of an Engineering Watch – OOW (STCW Reg III/1)

10.1.1 Engineer officer candidates who are not following approved cadet training programmes or the approved engine-room rating to engineer officer scheme (details of which are available from the MNTB) are required to have completed one of the following forms of initial training in the UK:

- .1 **shore-based training in engineering craft practice**, following a recognised Modern Apprenticeship in engineering or other scheme involving three years craft training, to the satisfaction of the MCA; *or*
- .2 **engineer graduate**, having satisfactorily completed a full time course of study to at least the standard of the EdExcel (BTEC) or SQA Higher National Diploma in engineering, together with training in engineering workshop skills and practice to the satisfaction of the MCA in accordance with MNTB standards and recommendations. For candidates with no relevant engineering training or experience, achievement of the desired standard will typically involve around 6 months approved workshop training; *or*
- .3 **Royal Navy**; commissioned officers who have specialised in marine engineering, Marine Engineering Artificers, Marine Engineering Mechanics and certain Marine Engineering Mechanics, on active service or retired.

10.1.2 Prior to commencing merchant navy employment, the above candidates must apply to the Examiner of Engineers in the Seafarer Standards Branch of the MCA, at the address given at the beginning of this MGN, for an assessment of the suitability of their initial training. The reply will be in the form of a **Letter of Initial Assessment** which must be produced by candidates when applying for a first certificate of competency. Those whose initial training is not considered suitable must follow the VQ route to certification.

10.1.3 Candidates will be required to complete the following qualifying sea service on ships of not less than 350 kW registered power:

- .1 **motor certificate:** 6 months, of which at least 4 months must have been spent in watchkeeping or duties associated with the Unmanned Machinery Space (UMS) on the main propelling machinery of motor ships;
- .2 **steam certificate:** 6 months, of which at least 4 months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the boilers and main propelling machinery of steam ships;
- .3 **combined certificate:** 8 months, of which at least 4 months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the main propelling machinery of motor ships and at least 4 months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the boilers and main propelling machinery of steam ships.

10.1.4 Sea service must be recorded/endorsed in the seafarer's discharge book and/or certificate(s) of discharge and be supported by testimonials signed by the Chief Engineer.

10.1.5 Sea service performed in ships of the Royal Navy will be assessed as if it had been performed in merchant ships.

10.1.6 Candidates will also be required to:

- .1 follow an approved programme of education and training on board ship and ashore which includes:
 - .1 knowledge, understanding and proficiencies listed in the STCW Code;
 - .2 ancillary training and other requirements listed in Part 3; *then*
- .2 pass a single external written examination paper administered by the International Association of Maritime Institutions (IAMl), divided into the following professional subjects:
 - .1 General Engineering Knowledge;
 - .2 Motor and/or Steam Engineering Knowledge; *and*
- .3 pass the MCA oral examination.

10.1.7 On-board training will be documented in an approved Training Record Book, obtainable from the MNTB or one of the MCA-approved training providers.

10.2 Second Engineer Officer – Unlimited (STCW Reg III/2)

10.2.1 Candidates will be required to complete the following qualifying sea service on ships of not less than 750 kW registered power whilst holding a certificate of competency as watchkeeping officer issued in accordance with Regulation III/1 of STCW 95, a Class 3 or Class 4 engineer officer certificate of competency issued under the 1986 Merchant Shipping regulations or, for Royal Navy candidates with suitable initial training, a Royal Navy Marine Engineer Officer of the Watch Certificate⁴:

- .1 **motor certificate:** 18 months, of which at least 9 months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the main propelling machinery of motor ships;
- .2 **steam certificate:** 18 months, of which at least 9 months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the boilers and main propelling machinery of steam ships;

⁴Holders of this Royal Navy certificate are not entitled to be issued with a certificate of competency as watchkeeping officer issued in accordance with Regulation III/1 of STCW 95, unless all other requirements are met.

- .3 **combined certificate:** 18 months, of which at least 9 months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the main propelling machinery of motor ships and at least 9 months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the boilers and main propelling machinery of steam ships.

10.2.2 Sea service must be recorded/endorsed in the seafarer's discharge book and/or certificate(s) of discharge and be supported by testimonials signed by the Chief Engineer.

10.2.3 Sea service performed in ships of the Royal Navy will be assessed as if it had been performed in merchant ships; however, RN candidates must perform at least 3 months merchant vessel familiarisation sea service in the engine-room department.

10.2.4 Candidates will also be required to:

- .1 follow an approved programme of education and training which includes:
 - .1 knowledge, understanding and proficiencies listed in the STCW Code;
 - .2 ancillary training and other requirements for certification under Regulation III/1 listed in Part 3 (unless completed previously); *then*
- .2 pass external written examinations administered by the SQA in the following academic subjects: (it may be possible to gain exemption from these on the basis of past achievements in national examinations as described in Part 9)
 - .1 applied mechanics;
 - .2 applied heat;
 - .3 mathematics;
 - .4 engineering drawing;
 - .5 marine electrotechnology;
 - .6 naval architecture; *and*
- .3 pass external written examinations administered by the SQA in the following professional subjects:
 - .1 general engineering knowledge;
 - .2 motor and/or steam engineering knowledge; *and*
- .4 pass the MCA oral examination.

10.3 Chief Engineer Officer – Unlimited (STCW Reg III/2)

10.3.1 Candidates will be required to complete the following qualifying sea service on ships of not less than 1,500 kW registered power whilst holding a certificate of competency as Second Engineer officer issued in accordance with Regulation III/2 of STCW 95, a Class 2 Engineer Officer certificate of competency issued under the 1986 Merchant Shipping Regulations or a Second Class Engineer certificate of competency issued under the 1894 Merchant Shipping Act:

- .1 **motor certificate:** 18 months, of which 9 months must have been spent in charge of a watch or UMS duties on motor ships of 3,000 kW or more;

- .2 **steam certificate:** 18 months, of which 9 months must have been spent in charge of a watch or UMS duties on steam ships of 3,000 kW or more;
- .3 **combined certificate:** 18 months, of which 9 months must have been spent in charge of a watch or UMS duties on motor ships of 3,000 kW or more and 9 months must have been spent in charge of a watch or UMS duties on steam ships of 3,000 kW or more.

10.3.2 Sea service must be recorded/endorsed in the seafarer's discharge book and/or certificate(s) of discharge and be supported by testimonials signed by the Chief Engineer.

10.3.3 Candidates will be required to:

- .1 follow an approved programme of education and training which includes:
 - .1 knowledge, understanding and proficiencies listed in the STCW Code;
 - .2 ancillary training and other requirements for certification under Regulation III/1 listed in Part 3 (unless completed previously); *then*
- .2 pass external written examinations administered by the SQA in the following academic subjects: (it may be possible to gain exemption from these on the basis of past achievements in national examinations as described in Part 9):
 - .1 applied mechanics;
 - .2 applied heat;
 - .3 marine electrotechnology;
 - .4 naval architecture; *and*
- .3 pass external written examinations administered by the SQA in the following professional subjects:
 - .1 general engineering knowledge;
 - .2 motor and/or steam engineering knowledge; *and*
- .4 pass the MCA oral examination.

11.0 Training Providers

11.1 Candidates wishing to follow either the VQ or the non-VQ route to STCW 95 certification should contact their nearest MCA Marine Office (listed at Annex 1) for details of local colleges and other organisations approved by the MCA to deliver education and training schemes and short training programmes to meet the requirements of STCW 95.

12.0 Further Information

12.1 Further information, if required, is available from the MCA at any MCA Marine Office or at the address given at the beginning of this MGN.

MCA MARINE OFFICES

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| 1. | Aberdeen Marine Office
Blaikies Quay
Aberdeen AB11 5EZ | Tel: 01224 574 122
Fax: 01224 571 920 |
| 2. | Belfast Marine Office
Queens Square
Belfast BT1 3ET | Tel: 02890 562 962
Fax: 02890 562 960 |
| 3. | Beverley Marine Office
Crosskill House
Mill Lane, Beverley
North Humberside HU17 9JB | Tel: 01482 866 606
Fax: 01482 869 989 |
| 4. | Cardiff Marine Office
Oxford House
Hills Street
Cardiff CF1 2TD | Tel: 02920 229 556
Fax: 02920 229 017 |
| 5. | Dover Marine Office
Langdon Battery
Swingate
Dover CT15 5NA | Tel: 01304 227710
Fax: 01304 241124 |
| 6. | Falmouth Marine Office
Pendennis Point
Castle Drive
Falmouth
Cornwall TR11 4WZ | Tel: 01326 312761
Fax: 01326 314331 |
| 7. | Glasgow Marine Office
6000 Academy Park
Gower Street
Glasgow G51 1TR | Tel: 0141 427 9400
Fax: 0141 427 9401 |
| 8. | Great Yarmouth Marine Office
5th floor
Yarmouth House
45 Yarmouth Way
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk NR 30 2QZ | Tel: 01493 330433
Fax: 01493 330489 |
| 9. | Leith Marine Office
1, John's Place
Leith
Edinburgh EH6 7EL | Tel: 0131 554 5488
Fax: 0131 554 7689 |
| 10. | Liverpool Marine Office
Graeme House
2nd Floor, Derby Square
Liverpool L2 7SQ | Tel: 0151 471 1142
Fax: 0151 471 1143 |

11. **London Marine Office** Tel: 01689 890 400
Central Court, Fax: 01689 890 446
1B Knoll Rise, Orpington
Kent BR6 0JA
12. **Milford Haven Marine Office** Tel: 01646 693272
Gorsewood Drive Fax: 01646 697852
Hakin
Milford Haven
Pembrokeshire SA 73 3HB
13. **Newcastle Marine Office** Tel: 0191 285 7171
Government Buildings Fax: 0191 284 7464
Broadway West, Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2JL
14. **Plymouth Marine Office** Tel: 01752 266 211
New Fish Market Fax: 01752 225 826
Baylys Wharf
Fish Quay
Plymouth PL4 0LH
15. **Shetland Marine Office** Tel: 01595 696712
The Knab Fax: 01595 692160
Knab Road
Lerwick
Shetland ZE 1 0AX
16. **Southampton Marine Office** Tel: 02380 329 329
Spring Place, Fax: 02380 329 351
105 Commercial Road
Southampton SO15 1EG
17. **Stockton on Tees Marine Office** Tel: 01642 611040
3rd floor Victoria House Fax: 01642 614048
Pearson Court
Pearson Way
Teesdale Park
Stockton on Tees TS 17 6PT