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## Period of Validity of Notice of Eligibility and Time Required Between Re-sits of Oral Exams

**Notice to all Operators, Deck and Engineer Officers and Ratings of Merchant Vessels and those concerned with maritime Training**

*This notice should be read with MGN 69 and replaces MIN 250 (M+F)  
This MIN expires 15 February 2015*

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### Summary

This information was previously issued as MIN 250 (M+F). It will subsequently be included in a revision of MGN 69 and other relevant notices.

This notice is to confirm the procedures being followed concerning the validity of a Notice of Eligibility (NOE) to sit a Maritime and Coastguard Agency Oral Exam and the time limits that apply between re-sits of oral exams:

- NOEs issued on or after 01 June 2003 are valid for 5 years from the date of issue: after this a new application must be made.
- Time period of 2 weeks before taking a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> re-sit and a minimum of 3 months between all subsequent re-sits.

### 1. Introduction/ Background

- 1.1 An expiry date has been introduced for Notices of Eligibility. This is to ensure that the assessed sea service remains valid during the qualifying period leading to the issue of a Certificate of Competency. Once this period has lapsed re-assessment will be necessary.
- 1.2 There is also concern about candidates who immediately book a re-sit having failed an oral examination without allowing adequate time for revision and preparation. In some cases candidates have booked numerous re-sits in short succession. Minimum periods between re-sits have been introduced to enable adequate revision time during which candidates will be expected to prepare effectively for the next examination.

### 2. NOE Expiry Date

- 2.1 NOEs issued since 1 June 2003 will be valid for 5 years from the date of issue. The date of issue is clearly stamped on the NOE. Once this period has elapsed the candidate must make a new application and the sea service will be re-assessed. Full supporting documentation and the appropriate fee must be supplied with the new application.



### 3. Oral Examinations

3.1 If a candidate fails an oral examination re-sits may be taken at the following intervals:

**2<sup>nd</sup> attempt** – normally at least 2 weeks after the initial examination<sup>1</sup>

**3<sup>rd</sup> attempt** – normally at least 2 weeks after the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt<sup>1</sup>

**subsequent attempts** - at least 3 months after the previous attempt between all further re-sits.

3.2 If a candidate has displayed a serious deficiency in competence during the oral examination the examiner may impose an additional sea service penalty before allowing a new NOE to be issued.

<sup>1</sup> **Note:** At the discretion of the Examiner the time frame may be reduced. This however is dependent on the severity of the fail and workload of the Marine Office. All re-sits issued in this way must be taken at the Marine Office in question.

### More Information

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