



The Government Support for Maritime Training Scheme (SMarT) - Additional Guidance.

Notice to all merchant ship owners and managers, Masters, deck and engineering officers and ratings of merchant vessels and those concerned with maritime training.

*This notice should be read with MGN 455 (M)
This MIN expires 31 March 2015*

Summary

Details of the Government Support for Maritime Training Scheme (SMarT) are found in Marine Guidance Note 455 (M). This Marine Information Note (MIN) has been issued to provide additional guidance and to advise on new procedure.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 455 was issued in August 2012 to describe the SMarT scheme for merchant navy training and is effective from 1 August 2012 to 31 March 2015. This MIN has been issued to provide further guidance and to advise on new procedure.

2. Designated Shipboard Training Officer (DSTO)

- 2.1 All DSTOs are required to hold for the purposes of SMarT an MCA accepted Certificate of Competency (CoC), for more information please see MGN 455.
- 2.2 Paragraph 9.1, section (g) of MGN 455 states "The DSTO must be the holder of an MCA accepted CoC. TPs must obtain a copy of the DSTO's CoC for audit purposes. Where the vessel is registered to the UK a copy of the DSTO's CoC is not required since it is a requirement to hold either a UK CoC or Certificate of Equivalent Competency (CEC) and,



in the case of CEC holders, the MCA will have already verified the authenticity of the certificate¹.”

- 2.3 An MCA acceptable CoC is either a UK CoC or one that is accepted for the issue of a UK CEC.
- 2.4 A list of countries whose CoCs are accepted can be found on our website, please follow the new link. <http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/workingatsea/mcga-trainingandcert/mcga-cec/dqs-st-stc-cecinfo.htm>
- 2.5 In addition to paragraph 9.1, section (h iii) of MGN 455 and as an alternative to The Master's Guide to the UK Flag (http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/dops_-_mastersguidetoukflag_1.htm), The Registration Guide (<http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/shipsandcargoes/mcga-ukshipregister/mcga-ukshipregister-merchantships/mcga-ukshipregister-guidetoreg.htm>.) is considered acceptable as UKLAP reference material. This must be held onboard together with a full set of MCA M Notices.
- 2.6 Please be aware all information found on the MCA website will shortly be moved to www.gov.uk

3. Approved Training Programmes and Colleges for SMarT 1

- 3.1 Annex A shows the approved programmes of education and training at sea and ashore including approved training colleges. Information on any new or withdrawn programmes is available on the MNTB website, www.mntb.org.uk
- 3.2 Annex A replaces Annex 1 of MGN 455.

4. SMarT Administration

- 4.1 SMarT is administered on behalf of the MCA by an Administering Body (AB) currently Ricardo-AEA Ltd (formerly AEA Technology plc). This follows the successful acquisition of AEA Technology plc by Ricardo Ltd. The brand name MaTSU remains unchanged. New contact details are as follows:

The SMarT Administrator
Ricardo-AEA (MaTSU)
The Gemini Building
Fermi Avenue
Harwell
Didcot
OX11 0QR
Tel: 01235 753244
e-mail: Smart-MCA-Enquiries@ricardo-aea.com

- 4.2 Following a successful tendering process the contract for the SMarT AB has been awarded to Ricardo-AEA Ltd (MaTSU) with effect from 1st April 2013.

¹ This applies to UK flagged vessels only. It does not extend to Red Ensign Group or EEA flagged vessels.



5. Merchant Navy Training Provider (MNTP) and Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB)

5.1 Unemployed trainees wishing to train as either (i) a Rating or (ii) a Rating to Officer, may apply for funding through MNTP. For full details please see MGN 455 paragraph 14.

5.2 MNTP has relocated, the new contact details are:

The Merchant Navy Training Provider (MNTP)
30 Park Street
London
SE1 9EQ
Tel: 020 7417 2840
Fax: 020 7726 2080
e-mail: smart@mntb.org.uk

6. Trainee Eligibility

6.1 To claim SMarT a trainee must have left school formally having reached the minimum school leaving age in the relevant country.

6.2 STCW 78 as amended states a person cannot be employed or engaged on board a vessel until they are 16 years of age.

6.3 TPs must ensure that training is delivered efficiently and coherently, with on board training integrated at an appropriate stage of the course, and as such, we would not normally expect any TP to accept a trainee who was more than 6 months away from their 16th birthday on their first day of training.

7. Training to be a Ship's Cook

7.1 Ratings training to be a Ship's Cook may claim the four STCW basic safety training courses:

- Personal Survival Techniques (STCW A-VI/1-1),
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW A-VI/1-2),
- Elementary First Aid (STCW A-VI/1-3), and
- Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (STCW A-VI/1-4).

8. Banff and Buchan College (Scottish Maritime College)

8.1 Funding under SMarT 3 is available for fishermen completing the Class 1 (Fishing) to Merchant Navy Officer of the Watch conversion course currently running at the Scottish Maritime College based at Peterhead.

8.2 Trainees undertaking the conversion course will be eligible to claim for the six week course and short (ancillary) courses listed in MGN 455 Annex 6.

8.3 Funding is only available for those who meet the SMarT eligibility criteria outlined in MGN 455 paragraph 8.1.



More Information

Seafarer Training and Certification
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
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Spring Place
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Southampton
SO15 1EG

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General Inquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

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

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Approved Training Programmes and Training Colleges Leading to a First Certificate of Competency

	HNC/D in Nautical Science	HNC/D in Marine Engineering	FD or SD in Nautical Science/ Marine Operations	FD or SD in Nautical/ Marine Engineering	FDS _c Marine Studies	Honours Degree	FD in Marine Electrical Systems (ETOs)	Adult Entry Trainee Engineer ²
Blackpool and the Fylde College	✓		✓	✓				
City of Glasgow College	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Liverpool John Moores University (Lairdside)			✓ ³			✓ ⁴		
Shetland School of Nautical Studies	✓	✓						✓
South Tyneside College	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
University of Plymouth					✓	✓ ⁵		
Warsash Maritime Academy	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Banff and Buchan College (Scottish Maritime Academy)								✓

² Payment will be made on a weekly basis equal to the actual number of weeks spent training, up to a maximum of 50 weeks at the SMaT 1 higher rate. MNTB Workshop Skills (O) may be claimed separately under SMaT 3.

³ Or Maritime Operations

⁴ BSC(Hons) Nautical Science

⁵ BSC(Hons) Marine Studies (Navigation) or Navigation and Maritime Science