



Engineer Officer Small Vessel Certificate of Competency Guidance

Notice to all Ship owners, Masters, Officers, Ratings and those concerned with maritime training.

This notice should be read with MSN 1587 (Amendment 1), MSN 1865 (Amendment 1) and replaces MIN 524

This MIN expires 22nd December 2023

Summary

This Marine Information Note (MIN) sets out further guidance regarding the implementation of alternative training arrangements and the issuing of the alternative certification, which are equivalent to the STCW Convention requirements (Article IX and Chapter VII of the STCW Convention). It outlines guidance for the certification structure, examination and training requirements for engineer officers wanting to work on Fishing Vessels, Yachts, Tugs, Workboats, Standby, Seismic Survey, Oceanographic Research Vessels and Government Patrol Vessels. Also known as the 'Small Vessel Route'.

1. Introduction
2. College Action Plan
3. Proof of Seagoing Service
4. General Engineering Science I & II Exemptions
5. Approved Engine Course (AEC) Part I and II Exemptions
6. Workshop Skills Training Exemptions
7. Conversions

The Annexes of this MSN cover:

A. College Action Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping) Regulations 2015 ("the 2015 Regulations") implement the requirements of the International Convention and Code on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping (STCW) 1978,¹ (referred to in this MIN as the 'STCW Convention' and 'STCW Code' respectively), including

¹ The STCW Regulations (SI 2015/782) were amended by S.I. 2018/68, S.I. 2019/630 and S.I. 2021/XXX.

the provisions in the STCW Convention prescribing the mandatory minimum requirements for the certification for engineer officers.

- 1.2 Regulation 55A of the 2015 Regulations provides for the Secretary of State (in this case, the MCA) to be able to approve alternative training arrangements, which are equivalent to the STCW Convention requirements (permitted by Article IX of the STCW Convention). The MCA has created an alternative certificate structure for engineers working on yachts, tugs, fishing vessels, workboats, standby, seismic survey, oceanographic research vessels and government patrol vessels. On successful completion of this training the MCA issue alternative certification under regulation 6 of the 2015 Regulations (as permitted by Chapter VII of the STCW Convention).
- 1.3 This MIN seeks to provide those wishing to obtain a Small Vessel certificate clarification and guidance on the 'Small Vessel Route'.
- 1.4 All references to Certificates of Competency (CoC) in this notice pertain to those issued by the MCA, unless otherwise stated.
- 1.5 For the purposes of this Notice, the term 'Small Vessel' (SV) will pertain to fishing vessels, yachts, tugs, workboats, standby, seismic survey, oceanographic research vessels and government patrol vessels. The SV CoC can be used on any of these types of vessels within the limitations stated on their CoC.
- 1.6 All references to Kilowatt (kW) pertain to the main propulsion power of the vessel, unless otherwise stated.

2. College Action Plan

- 2.1 The College Action Plan Letter format can be found in **Annex A**.

3. Proof of Seagoing Service

- 3.1 You will be required to submit documentary evidence of seagoing service for each CoC you apply for. Proof of seagoing service must be documented by either Merchant Navy discharge book entries or certificates of discharge.

4. General Engineering Science I & II Exemptions

- 4.1 An exemption from the MCA Small Vessel Competency exams for General Engineering Science I & II may be available providing you meet the requirements and follow the below procedure.
- 4.2 To gain an exemption from these subjects, candidates need to hold UK degree/HND/HNC in mechanical, marine, aeronautical or electro-mechanical engineering. The programme must have included the modules of applied mechanics, applied heat, mathematics and electro-technology. You must include a copy of your degree/HND/HNC Certificate and a copy of the course syllabus with your application prior to the issue of your Notice of Eligibility (NOE). This exemption will be issued by the MCA.
- 4.3 If you hold an engineering qualification from outside the UK but within the European Union (EU) or from the UK but in different subjects from those mentioned in the paragraph above, you may gain exemptions if the qualification modules match with at least 70% of the MCA syllabus (available on our website) and you achieved a pass mark of 50% or more. To obtain an exemption you will need to apply to the MCA approved contracted body responsible for arranging these exams. Currently this is the International Association of Maritime Institutions (IAMI) who can be contacted by email: iamisexemption@hotmail.co.uk or via their website:



<http://iami.info/>. The syllabus can be found on the MCA website: go to www.gov.uk and search "MCA Small Vessel Syllabus".

- 4.4 If you hold a degree from outside of the UK and the EU, you may gain exemptions from the courses but not the MCA professional examinations if the qualification modules match with at least 70% of the MCA syllabus (available on our website) and you achieved a pass mark of 50% or more. To obtain an exemption you will need to apply to the MCA approved contracted body responsible for arranging these exams. Currently this is the International Association of Maritime Institutions (IAMI) who can be contacted by email: iamiexemption@hotmail.co.uk or via their website: <http://iami.info/>.

5. Approved Engine Course (AEC) Part I and II Exemptions

- 5.1 An exemption from the AEC parts I and II may be available under the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) carried out by an MCA-approved training provider. The provider will map across your previous training and experience against the syllabus to see if an exemption can be granted.
- 5.2 The College Action Plan Letter format for AEC part I and II exemptions can be found in **Annex A**.

6. Workshop Skills Training Exemptions

- 6.1 An exemption for Workshop Skills training will be available under the APL carried out by an MCA approved training provider or MCA recognised assessor. They will map across your previous training and experience against the syllabus to see if an exemption can be granted.
- 6.2 The College Action Plan Letter format for Workshop Skills Training exemptions can be found in **Annex A**.

7. Conversions

- 7.1 The MCA has assessed CoC and Royal Navy Qualifications and set out the below routes to convert to a Small Vessel CoC by applicants meeting the required standard.

7.2 Conversion of existing Certificate of Competency (CoC) to Small Vessel (SV) CoC

UK Certificate Held	CoC Required	Conversion
Yacht 4 CoC (Y4)	Any SV Certificate of Competency.	A1 to A3 (pages 4 & 5)
Yacht 3 CoC (Y3)	Chief Engineer SV less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT.	B
	Chief Engineer SV less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT.	C
Yacht 2 CoC (Y2)	Chief Engineer SV less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT.	D



Yacht 1 CoC (Y1)	Chief Engineer SV less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT.	E
Tug Officer of the Watch <9000 kW, GT	Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOOW) SV less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT.	F
Tug Chief Engineer <3000 kW, less than 500	Chief Engineer SV less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT.	
Tug Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <9000 kW	Chief Engineer SV less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT.	
EOOW (Tug) <3000 kW or <6000 kW, <30 miles from UK safe haven	Any SV Certificate of Competency.	G1 to G3
Chief Engineer (Tug) <3000 kW or <6000 kW <30 miles from UK safe haven	Chief Engineer SV less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT.	H
Class 2 Fishing	Any SV Certificate of Competency.	J1 to J3
Class 1 Fishing	Chief Engineer SV less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT.	K
HMC&E EOOW less than 6000 kW	Any SV Certificate of Competency.	L1 to L3
HMC&E Chief Engineer Officer CoC less than 6000 kW	Chief Engineer SV less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT.	M
EOOW unlimited area	Any SV Certificate of Competency.	N1 to N3
Second Engineer (III/3) <3000 kW, unlimited area	Any SV Certificate of Competency.	P1 to P2
Chief Engineer (III/3) <3000 kW, unlimited area	Any SV Certificate of Competency.	Q
Second Engineer (III/2) unlimited power/area	Chief Engineer SV less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT.	U



	Chief Engineer SV less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT.	R
--	----------------------------------------------------------	----------

7.3 Conversions from Yacht Certificates of Competency

7.3.1. Conversion A1

If you hold Y4 CoC, to obtain an SV EOOW less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Complete 6 months' seagoing service on yachts of at least 350 kW while holding Y4 CoC **OR** pass the MCA oral examination for EOOW on Small Vessels less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2 MCA oral examination;
- (b) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (c) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

7.3.2. Conversion A2

If you hold Y4 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 3000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Complete 6 months' seagoing service on yachts of at least 350 kW while holding a Y4 CoC;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved module and pass the corresponding MCA professional examination for Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 3000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area, III/2.²

7.3.3. Conversion A3

If you hold Y4 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

- (a) While holding a Y4 CoC complete 12 months' seagoing service on yacht of at least 350 kW which includes a minimum of 6 months' service on yachts of 750 kW or more in power;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
 - Applied Marine Engineering;
 - General Engineering Science I & II;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.²

² For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



7.3.4. Conversion B

If you hold Y3 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 3000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904, including (HELM-M);
- (b) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

7.3.5. Conversion C

If you hold Y3 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

- (a) Complete 12 months' seagoing service while holding Y4 CoC, or 6 months' seagoing service while holding Y3 CoC. 6 months of this seagoing service must be completed on yachts of at least 750 kW and the remainder on yachts of 350 kW or more in power;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - General Engineering Science I and II, or demonstrate an exemption;
 - Applied Marine Engineering;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.³

7.3.6. Conversion D

If you hold Y2 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

- (a) Complete 3 months seagoing service on yacht of at least 750 kW while holding Y2 CoC;
- (b) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (c) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (d) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.³

7.3.7. Conversion E

If you hold Y1 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

- (a) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (b) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

³ For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



7.4 Conversion from a Tug

7.4.1. Conversion F

If you hold a Tug CoC issued under the MCA interim guidance you can convert to an SV CoC as per the table below providing you:

- (a) Hold applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (b) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

Engineer Officer of the Watch (Tug) <9000 Kw, near-coastal	-	SV EOOW less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area CoC
Chief Engineer (Tug) endorsement <3000 kW, less than 500 GT, near-coastal	-	SV Chief Engineer less than 3000 kW, less than 500GT, unlimited area CoC
Chief Engineer Officer (Tug) <9000 kW, near-coastal	-	SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area CoC

If you hold a 30 mile restricted Tug Licence, you should provide evidence of 90 days of service outside UK Category "C" or "D" Waters / Harbour Limits as part of the above conversions. If you do not hold this service you may be eligible to convert to a Tug and area restricted SV Licence as detailed in section 5 of MSN 1904.

7.5 Conversions from other Tug Certificates of Competency

7.5.1. Conversion G1

If you hold an Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOOW) less than 3000 kW or less than 6000 kW, valid up to 30 miles from a UK safe haven, to obtain an SV EOOW less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - Marine diesel engineering;
 - Auxiliary equipment – Part I;
 - Operational procedures, Basic hotel services and ship construction – I;
- (b) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (c) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (d) Pass the MCA oral examination for EOOW on Small Vessels less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2 MCA oral examination.⁴

However, if you completed a **VQ (Level 3)** to gain your EOOW Tug CoC then you will only need to:

- (a) Complete either 6 months' seagoing service in the capacity of EOOW (Tug) on tugs of at least 350 kW, **or** pass the MCA oral examination for EOOW on Small Vessels less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2;
- (b) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course listed in 6 of MSN 1904;

⁴ For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



- (c) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

7.5.2. Conversion G2

If you hold a Tug EOOW less than 3000 kW or less than 6000 kW, valid up to 30 miles from a UK safe haven, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Complete 6 months' Tug service while holding EOOW (Tug) CoC on Tugs of at least 350 kW;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - Marine diesel engineering⁵;
 - Auxiliary equipment – Part I & II⁵;
 - Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction⁵;
 - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer Officer, less than 3000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area, STCW Reg III/3.⁶

7.5.3. Conversion G3

If you hold a Tug EOOW less than 3000 kW or less than 6000 kW, valid up to 30 miles from a UK safe haven, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9,000 kW, less than 3,000 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Complete 12 months' seagoing service on in the capacity of EOOW (Tug) on Tugs of at least 350 kW or which includes a minimum of 3 months' service on Tugs of at least 750 kW;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - Marine diesel engineering⁵;
 - Auxiliary equipment – Part I & II⁵;
 - Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction⁵;
 - General Engineering Science I & II;
 - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
 - Applied Marine Engineering;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.⁶

⁵ You do not need to complete this training or submit this Certificate to the MCA if you completed the VQ level 3 to gain your Tug CoC.

⁶ For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



7.5.4. Conversion H

If you hold a Tug Chief Engineer less than 3000 kW or less than 6000 kW, valid up to 30 miles from a UK safe haven CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9,000 kW, less than 3,000 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - General Engineering Science I & II;
 - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
 - Applied Marine Engineering;
- (b) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (c) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (d) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.⁷

However, if you completed a **VQ (Level 3)** to gain your Chief Engineer Tug CoC then you will only need to complete:

- (a) Either 6 months' seagoing service on tugs of at least 750kW while holding Chief Engineer CoC, **or** pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2;
- (b) The applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (c) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

7.6 Conversions from Fishing Certificates of Competency

7.6.1. Conversion J1

If you hold a Fishing Class 2 Engineering CoC, to obtain an SV EOOW less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Complete at least 6 months' seagoing service on fishing vessels of at least 350 kW while holding a Fishing Class 2 Engineering CoC;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - Marine diesel engineering;
 - Auxiliary equipment – Part I;
 - Operational procedures, Basic hotel services and ship construction;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for EOOW on Small Vessels less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.⁷

7.6.2. Conversion J2

If you hold a Class 2 Fishing Engineering CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

⁷ For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



- (a) Complete 12 months' seagoing service while holding Class 2 Fishing CoC on fishing vessels of at least 350 kW;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - Marine diesel engineering;
 - Auxiliary equipment – Part I & II;
 - Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction;
 - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer Officer, less than 3000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area, STCW Reg III/3.⁸

7.6.3. Conversion J3

If you hold a Class Fishing 2 Engineering CoC; to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Complete 24 months' seagoing service while holding Class 2 Fishing CoC on fishing vessels of at least 350 kW which includes 6 months of seagoing service on fishing vessels of 750 kW and or more in power;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - Marine diesel engineering;
 - Auxiliary equipment – Part I & II;
 - General Engineering Science I & II;
 - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
 - Applied Marine Engineering;
 - Operational Procedures, Basic Hotel Services and Ship Construction;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.⁸

7.6.4. Conversion K

If you hold a Class 1 Fishing CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

- (a) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (b) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

⁸ For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



7.7 Conversions from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs/UK Government Patrol Vessels Certificates of Competency

7.7.1. Conversion L1

If you hold an HMRC Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOOW) less than 6000 kW, Limited European Area/Near Coastal Area CoC, to obtain an SV EOOW CoC less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Complete 12 months' seagoing service while holding EOOW HMRC CoC on HMRC vessels of at least 350 kW;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - Marine diesel engineering;
 - Auxiliary equipment – Part I;
 - Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for EOOW on Small Vessels less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.⁹

7.7.2. Conversion L2

If you hold an HMRC EOOW less than 6000 kW, Limited European Area/Near Coastal Area CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Complete 18 months' seagoing service while holding EOOW HMRC CoC on HMRC vessels of at least 350 kW;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:
 - Marine diesel engineering;
 - Auxiliary equipment – Part I & II;
 - Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction;
 - Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;
- (d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer Officer, less than 3000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area, III/2.⁹

7.7.3. Conversion L3

If you hold an HMRC EOOW less than 6000 kW, Limited European Area/Near Coastal Area CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

- (a) Complete 24 months' seagoing service while holding EOOW HMRC CoC on HMRC vessels of at least 350kW which includes 6 months on vessels of 750 kW or more;

⁹ For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



(b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:

- Marine diesel engineering;
- Auxiliary equipment – Part I & II;
- Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction;
- General Engineering Science I & II;
- Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
- Applied Marine Engineering;

(c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;

(d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;

(e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.¹⁰

7.7.4. Conversion M

If you hold an HMRC Chief Engineer Officer less than 6000 kW, Limited European Area/Near Coastal Area CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area CoC you must:

(a) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:

- Marine diesel engineering;
- Auxiliary equipment – Part I & II;
- Operational procedures, basic hotel services and ship construction;
- General Engineering Science I & II;
- Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;
- Applied Marine Engineering;

(b) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;

(c) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;

(d) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.¹⁰

7.8 Conversion from other Certificates of Competency to Small Vessel CoC

7.8.1. Conversion N1

If you hold an EOOW unlimited, III/1 CoC, to obtain an SV EOOW less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

(a) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;

(b) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

7.8.2. Conversion N2

If you hold an EOOW unlimited, III/1 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

(a) Complete 6 months' seagoing service while holding EOOW III/1 CoC on vessel of at least 350 kW;

¹⁰ For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



(b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:

- Auxiliary equipment – Part II;
- Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;

(c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in 6 of MSN 1904;

(d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;

(e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area, III/2.¹¹

7.8.3. Conversion N3

If you hold an EOW unlimited, III/1 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

- (a) Complete 12 months' seagoing service whilst holding EOW CoC on vessels of at least 750 kW;
- (b) Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:

- Auxiliary equipment – Part II;
- Applied Marine Engineering;
- General Engineering Science – I & II;
- Chief Engineer Statutory and Operational Requirements;

(c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;

(d) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;

(e) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.¹¹

7.8.4. Conversion P1

If you hold a Second Engineer less than 3000 kW, unlimited area CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT, unlimited area CoC and Second Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited CoC you must:

(a) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;

(b) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

7.8.5. Conversion P2

If you hold a Second Engineer less than 3000 kW, unlimited area CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

(a) Have completed 8 months' seagoing service in full charge of the watch on vessels of at least 750 kW*;

(b) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;

(c) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;

¹¹ For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



- (d) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.¹²

*You do not need to complete or provide evidence of the seagoing service if you hold either the Second Engineer less than 6,000 kW or 9,000 kW near coastal endorsement.

7.8.6. Conversion Q

If you hold a Chief Engineer less than 3000 kW, unlimited area CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

- (a) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (b) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

7.8.7. Conversion U

If you hold a Second Engineer unlimited, III/2 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 3,000 kW, less than 500 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

- (a) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (b) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent.

7.8.8. Conversion R

If you hold a Second Engineer unlimited, III/2 CoC, to obtain an SV Chief Engineer less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT CoC, unlimited area you must:

- (a) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 6 of MSN 1904;
- (b) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (c) Pass the MCA oral examination for Chief Engineer on Small Vessels less than 9,000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.¹²

¹² For the MCA's published Oral Examination Syllabi, please refer to the following page and navigate to the section titled 'Oral Exam Syllabuses': www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information.



More Information

Seafarer Services
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/11
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel: +44 (0) 203 8172200
e-mail: Engineering@mcga.gov.uk

Website Address: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency

General Enquiries: info@mcga.gov.uk

Published: December 2021

Please note that all addresses and telephone numbers are correct at time of publishing

© Crown Copyright 2021

Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas



College Action Plan

Seafarer's name:
Address:

Tel: *****
Email: *****

Your ref:
Our ref: **SV Action Plan**

Day/Month/Year

Dear *****,

This Action Plan must be read in conjunction with MSN 1904

This Action Plan is relevant to the alternative route (MSN 1904 Section 4.7) and cannot be used with any other recognised route.

To be issued with a Small Vessel Second Engineer Officers less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, Regulation III/2, Certificate of Competency you must meet the following requirements:

a) Complete a minimum of 6 months' mandatory seagoing service engaged in watchkeeping duties or UMS duties. Seagoing service must be on vessels of at least 350kW. This service can only commence from the date of this Action Plan and you must document your onboard training during this period in an approved MCA approved Training Record Book (TRB)¹³. In addition, you must also complete [please delete the two of the three options that do not apply]

- (i) **A Graduate (Degree), a holder of an MCA-approved HND in Marine Engineering Qualification or an engineering apprenticeship (NVQ level 3 or above), must** complete a further 5 months' seagoing service on vessels of at least 350 kW and either;
 - An additional 2 weeks seagoing service on vessels of at least 350 kW **or**
 - 2 weeks of further MCA approved additional Workshop Skills Training*;
- (ii) **An HND student** must complete a further 8 months' seagoing service on vessels of at least 350 kW and either;
 - An additional 2 weeks seagoing service on vessels of at least 350 kW **or**
 - 2 weeks of further MCA approved additional Workshop Skills Training*;
- (iii) **An HNC holder** must complete a further 11 months' seagoing service on vessels of at least 350 kW and either;

¹³ Additional evidence to support your claim for competency may be displayed in a workbook in addition to the TRB. The workbook is not compulsory, and has no specific format, but will be an asset when preparing for oral examination or in case the TRB is lost or damaged. It can include reports, sketches, photographs and line drawings.



- An additional 2 weeks seagoing service on vessels of at least 350 kW **or**
- 2 weeks of further MCA approved additional Workshop Skills Training*;

* This must be relevant to Small Vessel Engineering and include a syllabus not covered in the initial 'Workshop Training' syllabus.

- Hold an Approved Engine Course I & II;
- Complete 2 weeks of initial MCA approved workshop training;
- Successfully complete the MCA approved modules and pass the corresponding MCA Small Vessel Competency examinations for:

- Marine Diesel Engineering;
- Auxiliary Equipment – Part I;
- Operational procedures, Basic Hotel Services and Ship construction.

- Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in **Table A**;
- Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- Pass the MCA oral examination for Second Engineer Officers on Small Vessels less than 9000 kW, less than 3000 GT, unlimited area, III/2.

The MCA approved examinations and MCA oral examination must be passed within 3 years prior to the date of the issue of your Certificate of Competency.

Table A		
Ancillary/Safety Course Certificate	SV 2nd Eng III/2	STCW Code Reference
Personal Survival Techniques	Yes	A-V1/1-1
Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting	Yes	A-VI/1-2
Elementary First Aid	Yes	A-V1/1-3
Personal Safety and Social Responsibility	Yes	A-V1/1-4
Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats	Yes	A-V1/2*
Advanced Fire Fighting	Yes	A-VI/3
Medical First Aid	Yes	A-V1/4-1
High Voltage (Operational)	Optional	A-III/1
HELM (Operational)	Yes	A-III/1

I can confirm that the above-named candidate:

- Is exempt** or has completed the** Approved Engine Course I;
- Has completed the AEC II Course**
- Is exempt from the MCA approved initial Workshop training**.



Yours sincerely,

Lecturer's Name:
Approved Small Vessel Training Provider:

**Delete as appropriate.

Company Stamp

College Stamp

DRAFT

