



# MIN 511 (M) Amendment 1

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## The Alternative Route for Qualified Engineers and Engineering Graduates to Obtain an Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOOW) Unlimited Certificate of Competency

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

*This notice should be read with MSN 1857 (M+F) (Amendment 1).  
This MIN expires 01 October 2025*

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### Summary

This Marine Information Note (MIN) details the 'Alternative Route', which allows Engineering Graduates, Engineering Higher National Diploma (HND)/Advanced Diploma, Higher National Certificate (HNC)/Advanced Certificate holders or those with suitable engineering apprenticeship (NVQ level 3 or above) to have their qualifications assessed by an MCA-approved nautical college for entry onto the UK Engineering Officer of the Watch training programme.

### This MIN covers:

1. Introduction
2. Eligibility
3. Alternatives if you have met the required standard
4. Requirements for Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOOW) unlimited, STCW Convention Regulation III/1, Certificate of Competency
5. Requirements for seagoing service
6. Progression to a higher Certificate of Competency
7. Medical Fitness and Eyesight Standards
8. Application Procedure
9. Notice of Eligibility
10. MCA Oral Examination
11. The issue of your Certificate of Competency
12. Fraudulent Certificates and Seagoing Service

### The Annexes of this MIN cover:

- A. College Action Plan
- B. Engineer Cadet/Junior Engineer/Rating Seagoing Service Testimonial



## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping) Regulations 2022 ('the 2022 Regulations'), implement the requirements of the International Convention and Code on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping (STCW) 1978,<sup>1</sup> (referred to in this MIN as the 'STCW Convention' and 'STCW Code' respectively), including the provisions prescribing the mandatory minimum requirements for the certification of engineer officers.

1.2 To obtain a United Kingdom (UK) STCW Certificate of Competency you must:

- Meet the minimum age requirement;
- Complete the minimum period of seagoing service;
- Undertake ancillary technical and safety training;
- Complete the appropriate programme(s) of education and training meeting the minimum vocational and academic standard;
- Meet medical standards (including eyesight);
- If applicable, pass an oral examination conducted by a Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) examiner.

**If you are considering a seagoing career it is strongly advised that you undergo a medical and sight test, which includes testing of colour and visual acuity, before starting training. Please refer to section 7 of this Notice.**

1.3 Prior to joining your first Merchant Navy ship for your first sea voyage you will need to hold the following certificates<sup>2</sup>;

- A valid ENG1<sup>3</sup> (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-1);
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-2);
- Elementary First Aid (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-3);
- Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-4);
- Security Awareness (STCW Code Table A-VI/6-1)<sup>4</sup>.

**All references to Certificates of Competency in this notice are to those issued by the MCA, unless otherwise stated. All references to Kilowatt (kW) pertain to the propulsion power of the vessel, unless otherwise stated.**

1.4 The 'alternative route' is designed for those with relevant engineering qualifications to apply directly to an MCA approved nautical college for an Action Plan detailing the requirements they must meet to obtain an Engineering Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competency

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<sup>1</sup> The 2022 Regulations revoked and replaced the previous regulations, the Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/782).

<sup>2</sup> As required by Section A-VI/1 of the STCW Code, if you are employed or engaged in any capacity onboard a ship with designated safety or pollution-prevention duties, before being assigned to any shipboard tasks you will be required to successfully complete those elements of STCW basic training which are appropriate to your duties and functions

<sup>3</sup> See section 7 for further details. Details of MCA-Approved Medical Certificates are available from our website: [www.gov.uk/seafarer-medical-certificates](http://www.gov.uk/seafarer-medical-certificates).

<sup>4</sup> If you are to serve on ships to which the International Ship and Port Facility (ISPS) Code applies you must hold a Security Awareness certificate (Section A-VI/6, paragraph 4 of the STCW Code, and STCW Code Table A-VI/6-1STCW A-VI/6- 4). If you are assigned designated security duties aboard a vessel you must obtain a Designated Security Duties certificate (Section A-VI/6, paragraphs 6-8 of the STCW Code, and STCW Code Table A-VI6-2STCW A-VI/6 - 6 to 8). Please refer to MSN 1865 (Amendment 1).



(CoC). This function was previously carried out by the MCA and known as a Letter of Initial Assessment (LIA). The college will assess the applicant's qualifications and experience and issue an Action Plan that, along with this MIN, will detail the requirements for the applicant to meet the Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOOW) unlimited, STCW Convention regulation III/1 standard.

**1.5 If you have a Royal Navy qualification or wish to gain a Small Vessel CoC, you should contact the MCA to request a copy of the Royal Navy Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) conversion flow chart. Please contact the Seafarer Services Engineering Team via: [engineering@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:engineering@mcga.gov.uk).**

## **2. Eligibility**

2.1 If you have completed a suitable engineering qualification and/or work based apprenticeship, you may apply through the alternative route. This will include:

- Graduates or Higher National Diploma (HND)/Advanced Diploma, Higher National Certificate (HNC)/Advanced Certificate holders in Mechanical or Marine Engineering, or in an engineering subject that covers at least four of the following 6 subjects: Mathematics, Engineering Drawing, Applied Mechanics, Applied Heat, Electrotechnology and Naval Architecture);
- Suitable engineering apprenticeship (NVQ level 3 or above) holders.

2.2 For any qualification gained outside the UK, you must obtain a ENIC (<https://www.ecctis.com/>) letter confirming comparable standard of your qualification to a UK equivalent. HND/Advanced Diploma, HNC/Advanced Certificate and NVQ qualifications will be only accepted if gained from an EU state.

2.3 For Graduates or Higher National Diploma (HND)/Advanced Diploma, Higher National Certificate (HNC)/Advanced Certificate holders to be eligible for entry onto this programme at least four of the six academic subjects must be covered by your previous qualification: Mathematics, Engineering Drawing, Applied Heat, Applied Mechanics, Naval Architecture and Electro-technology.

2.4 Suitable engineering apprenticeship (NVQ level 3 or above) will be assessed by the college to ensure they cover experience, training and qualification levels relevant<sup>5</sup> to a Marine Engineering qualification.

**2.5 If you are eligible to enter onto this programme you will need to apply directly to an MCA approved nautical college.** Contact details of the nautical colleges offering this programme are available from the MCA website; search [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for 'MCA approved nautical colleges'.<sup>6</sup>

## **3. Alternatives if you have met the required standard**

3.1 If you hold a relevant engineering qualification (degree, HND/Advanced Diploma, HNC/Advanced Certificate or equivalent) you may be assessed to demonstrate that you have met the standard required for the underpinning knowledge for an operational level CoC (EOOW). Therefore, you will be exempt from the requirement to complete the following modules and assessment at an MCA approved nautical college:

- MCA General Engineering Science A & B course and examination;
- The Control Engineering Section of the MCA Engineering Knowledge examination.

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<sup>5</sup> Examples of relevant Marine Engineering Qualifications include Mechanical Engineering, Marine Engineering, Agricultural Engineering and Shipyard based apprentice qualifications.

<sup>6</sup> Please refer to: [www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information)



- 3.2 If your degree, HND/Advanced Diploma, HNC/Advanced Certificate or equivalent was in Electro-Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical or Marine Engineering you will not need to complete the MCA General Engineering Science A & B and Control Engineering programme providing it was covered in the programme.
- 3.3 For other engineering qualifications (degree, HND/Advanced Diploma, HNC/Advanced Certificate or equivalent), the MCA associated body will map across the syllabus to assess if it meets the standard required for the underpinning knowledge for an operational level CoC (EOOW). This will then allow them to see if you are exempt from the requirement to complete the academic modules and examinations at an MCA approved nautical college.
- 3.4 If you have completed a suitable engineering apprenticeship (NVQ level 3 or above) you will need to complete all the academic subject course and examinations (MCA General Engineering Science A & B). If you completed workshop skills training as part of your apprenticeship you may not need to complete this training to gain your first CoC. You will need to apply in writing to the MCA who will assess your training and issue you with a letter that exempts you from the requirements of the course(s) and/or examination(s) if you have received the equivalent training.<sup>7</sup> This will indicate you have met the appropriate standard for the underpinning knowledge. If you wish to complete further workshop skills training to count towards the issue of your CoC, as per section 4.1(a), this must be completed in the relevant areas not previously covered by your training.
- 3.5 If you believe your engineering apprenticeship (NVQ level 3 or above) covered the requirements for MCA General Engineering Science A & B **and/or** the Control Engineering Section of the MCA Engineering Knowledge examination, you may apply to the delegated associated body on behalf of the MCA (currently the International Association of Maritime Institutions (IAMI)) to review if you have met these requirements.
- 3.6 To apply, please contact your nautical college, or if they are unable to advise IAMI by email: [exemption@iami.org.uk](mailto:exemption@iami.org.uk).
- 3.7 You must submit your College Action Plan (see **Annex A**) and any letters that exempt you from the requirements of the course(s) and/or examination(s) to the MCA with your application. The College Action Plan will provide the following information:
- An overview of your education and training requirements;
  - The amount of seagoing service and workshop training you are required to complete.
- 3.8 You must also submit your original qualification with your application for a Notice of Eligibility (see section 9).
- 3.9 The College Action Plan will be summarised in the letter format shown in **Annex A**. The letter will draw on the requirements in **section 4**.
- 4. Requirements for Engineer Officer of the Watch (EOOW) unlimited, STCW Convention Regulation III/1, Certificate of Competency**

4.1 To be issued with an EOOW unlimited, regulation III/1, Certificate of Competency you must meet the following requirements:

- (a) Complete a minimum of six months' seagoing service engaged in watchkeeping duties and three months' MCA-approved workshop skills training. Seagoing service

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<sup>7</sup> You will need to map your training syllabus to the MCA requirements (applicable STCW Code Table, available on request). In addition, you must provide your completed training Certificate with the supporting transcripts completed (This will include your marks for each subject).



must be completed on merchant ships of at least 750 kW and include onboard training that meets the requirements of section A-III/1 of the STCW Code. This training must be documented in an approved MCA approved Training Record Book (TRB) and its associated workbook. In addition, you must also complete one of the following:

- (i) **A Graduate (Degree), a holder of an MCA approved HND in Marine Engineering Qualification, Advanced Certificate/Diploma in Marine Engineering or an engineering apprenticeship (NVQ level 3 or above),** must complete a further three months of combined workshop skills and seagoing service, which can be made up of either:
  - one months' MCA-approved laboratory time and 2 months' combined seagoing service and/or industrial training; **or**
  - three months' additional seagoing service; **or**
  - three months' combined approved workshop and/or industrial training;
- (ii) **A HND/Advanced Diploma student** must complete a further six months' combined workshop skills and seagoing service, which can be made up of:
  - At least three months' seagoing service **and**;
  - three months' of combined approved workshop skills training, industrial training or additional seagoing service;
- (iii) **A HNC/Advanced Certificate holder** must complete a further nine months' combined workshop skills and seagoing service, which can be made up of:
  - At least six months' seagoing service **and**;
  - three months' of combined approved workshop skills training, industrial training or additional seagoing service;
- (b) If required by your action plan, successfully complete MCA General Engineering Science A & B programme and pass the applicable MCA professional examinations<sup>8</sup>;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in section 4.3, **Table A**.
- (d) Pass the MCA EOOW Engineering Knowledge professional examinations at an MCA approved centre. This will include the following sections:
  - General<sup>9</sup>,
  - Motor and/or Steam<sup>9</sup>,
  - Control Engineering;
- (e) Hold a valid ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent;
- (f) Pass the MCA oral examination 'STCW Regulation – III/1 Engineer Officer of the Watch motor and/or steam'<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> If you can demonstrate that you have met the required standard, your college may exempt you from these requirements as per section 3.

<sup>9</sup> The General and Motor and/or Steam sections must be passed in a single attempt. If you fail one or both of the sections you will need to retake both sections again.

<sup>10</sup> 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](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information).



The MCA Engineering Knowledge professional examination and MCA oral examination must be passed within three years prior to the date of the issue of your Certificate of Competency.

#### 4.2 Examination requirements

If you successfully pass the MCA EOW Engineering Knowledge professional examinations, you will be issued with an MCA approved results certificate(s) indicating this. This will provide you with evidence that you have successfully completed the Engineering Knowledge professional examinations required for the issue of your EOW CoC.

If you are required to complete the MCA General Engineering Science A & B programme you must obtain a minimum 50% pass in each section. Upon the successful completion of your General Engineering Science A & B programme and examinations you will be issued with an MCA approved results certificate(s) indicating this. This will provide you with evidence that you have successfully completed the education and training programme required under the STCW Code for an EOW CoC.

#### 4.3 Ancillary and safety training

You must successfully complete **all** the required ancillary and safety training applicable to the EOW Certificate of Competency:

| <b>Table A</b>   |                  |                       |                    |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Ancillary/ Safety Course Certificate</b>                        | <b>EOW III/1</b> | <b>STCW Reference</b> | <b>Expiry Date</b> |
| <b>Personal Survival Techniques <sup>a</sup></b>                   | Yes              | A-V1/1-1              | ●                  |
| <b>Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting <sup>a</sup></b>              | Yes              | A-VI/1-2              | ●                  |
| <b>Elementary First Aid <sup>a</sup></b>                           | Yes              | A-V1/1-3              |                    |
| <b>Personal Safety and Social Responsibility <sup>a</sup></b>      | Yes              | A-V1/1-4              |                    |
| <b>Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats <sup>b</sup></b> | Yes              | A-V1/2*               | ●                  |
| <b>Advanced Fire Fighting <sup>b</sup></b>                         | Yes              | A-VI/3                | ●                  |
| <b>Medical First Aid <sup>b</sup></b>                              | Yes              | A-V1/4-1              |                    |
| <b>High Voltage (operational) <sup>c</sup></b>                     | Yes              | A-III/1               |                    |
| <b>HELM (operational) <sup>c</sup></b>                             | Yes              | A-III/1               |                    |

- You will be required to provide documentary evidence of either completing the training course or updating your training within the preceding five years for all CoC applications. To satisfy port State control requirements, you will need to hold evidence onboard your vessel of completing or updating your training within the last five years. For further information relating to STCW course certificates, including their validity, please refer to MSN 1865 (Amendment 1).

For the issue of a Certificate of Competency:

**a** – The MCA will accept certificates issued under the authority of any IMO 'White List' country.



- b** – The MCA will accept certificates issued under the authority of any EU Member State, as well as by any country noted in MIN 643.<sup>11</sup>
- c** – Certificates must be MCA-approved.

## **5. Seagoing Service Requirements**

5.1 Seagoing service is defined as time spent onboard a ship, relevant to the issue of the certificate or other qualification being applied for. Seagoing service must be in the engineering department reckoned from the date of engagement to the date of discharge. Seagoing service may be performed on vessels of any flag.

5.2 Seagoing service must be performed on merchant ships proceeding to sea. Proceeding to sea means going beyond the categorised waters around the coast of the United Kingdom or beyond the harbour limits for waters outside the United Kingdom.

5.3 At least 75% of the required seagoing service must be performed while the vessel is underway on sea passage. Seagoing service (steaming time) will be calculated from the seagoing service testimonials.

5.4 If you hold a Letter of Initial Assessment (LIA) or College Action Plan, this will detail your seagoing service requirements.

### **5.5 Requirements for watchkeeping service**

5.6 A minimum of six months of your seagoing service must be spent performing engine room watchkeeping duties or UMS duties.

5.7 Watchkeeping service is defined as time spent on an engine room watch, for a minimum of four hours out of every 24 hours.

### **5.8 Required documentary evidence**

5.9 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. Entries must be supported by testimonials completed and signed by the Chief Engineer. Examples of seagoing testimonials can be found in **Annex B**. The testimonials must cover your conduct and ability and include details of seagoing and watchkeeping service as applicable.

5.10 Your seagoing service testimonials must clearly detail your watchkeeping duties, specifying how much of your sea time was spent performing watchkeeping and indicating in what capacity this was performed. If your seagoing service was spent on a vessel with unmanned machinery spaces and you performed duties associated with this operation, your testimonials must state this.

## **6. Progression to a higher Certificate of Competency**

6.1 You can progress through the MCA Certificate of Competency structure by completing the required training, education and seagoing service for the Second Engineer CoC.

6.2 If you hold an engineering qualification (degree, HND/Advanced Diploma or equivalent) completed in the UK, you may be assessed to show you have met the standard required for

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<sup>11</sup> For further details please refer to MIN 643: (Insert link).



the academic courses and examinations at Second Engineer and Chief Engineer level<sup>12</sup>. The modules of your engineering qualification must show a match of at least 70% with the MCA approved syllabus and you must secure at least 50% pass marks in the respective modules. You will need to apply directly to the delegated associated body on behalf of the MCA, IAMI, who may issue you with a letter that demonstrates you have met the required standards for the underpinning knowledge and exempts you from the requirements for the need to complete the course(s) and/or examination(s).

- 6.3 To apply, please contact IAMI by email: [exemption@iami.org.uk](mailto:exemption@iami.org.uk).
- 6.4 You must submit a copy of any letter that demonstrates you have met the required standards for the underpinning knowledge and exempts you from the requirement to complete any course modules and/or examinations with every application you make to the MCA for a CoC.
- 6.5 If you hold an engineering degree issued by a country other than the UK, you may have met the standard required for the academic courses at Second Engineer and Chief Engineer level. However, you will still be required to pass the corresponding academic examinations. As you will have demonstrated the standard, your college may exempt you from attending the course modules on a subject for subject basis. You will, however, need to complete all of the academic examinations. This will be indicated in your college letter or action plan.
- 6.6 Exemptions will only be available from the MCA academic subject courses and examinations. There will be no exemptions from the MCA Engineering Knowledge examinations at Second or Chief Engineer levels<sup>13</sup>. Please refer to MSN 1857 (Amendment 1) for higher level CoC requirements.<sup>14</sup>

## 7. Medical Fitness and Eyesight Standards

- 7.1 For any CoC, you must meet the medical fitness and eyesight standards as required by the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Medical Certification) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/737)<sup>15</sup>. Details on the application of those regulations are found in MSN 1886, or any subsequent amendment.<sup>16</sup>
- 7.2 The seafarer medical examination includes a sight test for both colour vision and visual acuity. Failure to meet the statutory requirements will mean that an unrestricted medical certificate cannot be issued. **If you are considering a seagoing career it is strongly advised that you have a medical and sight test, which includes testing of both colour and visual acuity, before you start the training.** You can arrange a separate sight test with a local optometrist by taking along an Application for Seafarer Vision Test Form (MSF 4100). The form can be obtained by contacting an MCA Marine Office or the MCA Seafarer Medical Team: [medical@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:medical@mcga.gov.uk).
- 7.3 For any CoC you must produce a valid medical fitness certificate, either:

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<sup>12</sup> The Second Engineer and Chief Engineer course are combined and lead onto management examinations in the following academic subjects: Mathematics, Applied Mechanics, Applied Heat, Engineering Drawing, Electro Technology and Naval Architecture.

<sup>13</sup> The Second and Chief Engineer 'Engineering Knowledge' examinations are combined to form one management level 'Engineering Knowledge' examination. If you pass the management examination prior to obtaining your Second Engineer Certificate of Competency you will not need to repeat it to gain a Chief Engineer Certificate of Competency.

<sup>14</sup> Please refer to MSN 1857 (Amendment 1) (Insert link).

<sup>15</sup> The Regulations were amended by the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/242). Further details on the required Medical Fitness Standards and Certification are available from: [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) and search "Maritime Labour Convention".

<sup>16</sup> Further details can be found on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search "Medical Certificates/Standards".





- (a) The UK medical fitness certificate, currently known as an ENG1, issued by an MCA-approved medical practitioner; **or**
- (b) A certificate issued by the Administration of any country whose medical fitness certificate is recognised as equivalent to the UK ENG1.

Updated lists are available from the MCA website.

7.4 The medical fitness certificate must specify the date of examination, the period of validity and any restriction applied.

## 8. Application Procedure

8.1 The application form, MSF 4275, details the procedure and fee to obtain a CoC. You must complete this and submit it to the MCA with your Action Plan, the relevant fee and the documents listed on the form.

8.2 The application form is available to download from our website, go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search 'MSF 4275'.<sup>17</sup>

8.3 If you are required to pass an MCA oral examination and meet the requirements specified on the application form, you will be issued with a Notice of Eligibility (NOE).

## 9. Notice of Eligibility (NOE)

9.1 You will be issued with an NOE once you have met the requirements specified below. The NOE will allow you to book an oral examination.

9.2 Prior to the issue of your NOE you must submit:

- the appropriate fee for the CoC you are applying for;
- an ENG1 (medical fitness certificate) or accepted equivalent<sup>18</sup>;
- passport (attested copy);
- the required photos for your CoC (see application form);
- proof of the required seagoing service applicable to the CoC you are applying for and stated in your Action Plan;
- STCW Basic safety training:
  - Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-1);
  - Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-2);
  - Elementary First Aid (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-3);
  - Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-4);
- a completed approved Training Record Book and the associated Workbook;
- your original Engineering qualification Certificate;
- an action plan from your college detailing: sea time requirements and any exemptions from the academic subjects and/or workshop skills training.

9.3 **An NOE provides you with the offer of an MCA oral examination and is valid for period of five years from the date of issue.** The date of issue will be put on your NOE. After this period has elapsed you will need to make a new application, with the supporting

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<sup>17</sup> MSF 4275: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/certificate-of-competency-engine-msf4275](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/certificate-of-competency-engine-msf4275)

<sup>18</sup> To go to sea you must have obtained a valid medical fitness certificate. While this may have expired when you apply for your NOE, it must be valid at the time when we issue your Certificate of Competency.



documentation and the appropriate fee, to the MCA so that your current competency can be assessed to ensure you meet the required standards.<sup>19</sup>

## 10. MCA Oral Examination

- 10.1 Prior to the exam you must be able to provide your MCA Training Record Book to the MCA on request.
- 10.2 You must take your current passport (with visa if applicable) to the oral examination as a means of identification.
- 10.3 At least six months of the qualifying seagoing service must have been performed within the five years immediately preceding the issue of an NOE.
- 10.4 It is recommended that you complete all of the education and training before attempting the oral examination, as this will provide you with the knowledge on which the examination is based.
- 10.5 The examiner will record the result of your oral examination on your NOE.
- 10.6 **Your oral examination pass is valid for a period of three years.** This must be in date at the time of the issue of your CoC. The NOE must be returned to the MCA with any outstanding documentary evidence.
- 10.7 If you fail your oral examination you will need to apply to the MCA for another NOE and pay an additional fee for a re-sit oral examination. Details of how to do this can be found on the NOE.
- 10.8 If a candidate fails an oral examination, re-sits may be taken at the following intervals:  
**Second attempt** – at least two weeks after the initial examination;  
**Third attempt** – at least two weeks after the second attempt;  
**Subsequent attempts** – at least three months after the previous attempt.
- 10.9 Time periods between examinations can be reduced at the discretion of the MCA examiner. Where a candidate exhibits a lack of basic competency across the syllabus or makes fundamental errors in areas of safety, the examiner may impose a seagoing service penalty which the candidate must complete before re-sitting the examination.<sup>20</sup>

## 11. The Issue of Your Certificate of Competency

- 11.1 At least six months of the qualifying seagoing service must have been performed within the five years immediately preceding the issue of your CoC. A CoC will not be issued until the MCA has received all the documentary evidence confirming you have met the required standard.
- 11.2 **The MCA Engineering Knowledge professional examination and MCA oral examination must be passed within three years prior to the date of the issue of your CoC.**
- 11.3 The appropriate CoC will be issued and is valid for a period of five years from the date that the qualifying conditions were met. Your ENG1 seafarer medical (or equivalent) must

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<sup>19</sup> If you do not pass your oral examination within this timescale, your application will be rejected and the appropriate fee will be taken.

<sup>20</sup> Further information about the NOE and oral examination syllabus can be found via the following link:  
[www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafarer-careers-training-provision-and-information).



be valid at the time when we issue your CoC. Any outstanding fees must be received by the MCA before an NOE or CoC can be issued.

**11.4 You must check you meet the current regulatory requirements when you make an initial application AND at the time you submit your NOE pass for the issue of your CoC.**

11.5 Further information and guidance is available from our website go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search "Engineer CoC".<sup>21</sup>

## **12. Fraudulent Certificates and Seagoing Service**

12.1 The MCA checks that all of the information you submit in support of your application is accurate and true. We can:

- verify Certificates of Competency and Watchkeeping certificates issued by foreign administrations;
- check and verify ancillary and safety course certificates;
- verify seagoing service testimonials and discharge book entries;
- only accept original course completion certificates.

15.1 If you submit fraudulent seagoing service records or certificates we will not allow you to proceed with your application. We may also refer your application to the MCA Enforcement Branch who may decide to proceed against you in court. We reserve the right not to let you apply again until after a period specified by the MCA's Chief Examiner.

15.2 The UK holds a record of all Certificates of Competency issued. The authenticity of a CoC can be verified on request. For more information please email the MCA by email: [exams@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:exams@mcga.gov.uk).

### **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](mailto:engineering@mcga.gov.uk)

Website Address: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency)

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<sup>21</sup> Please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-uk-seafarer-coc-deck-and-engineer-officers>



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

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

DRAFT



## College Action Plan

Seafarer's name  
Address

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

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

Day/Month/Year

Dear \*\*\*\*\*,

To be issued with an EOWW unlimited, regulation III/1, Certificate of Competency you must meet the following requirements:

- (a) Complete a minimum of six months' seagoing service engaged in watchkeeping duties and three months' MCA approved workshop skills training. Seagoing service must be completed on merchant ships of at least 750 kW and include onboard training that meets the requirements of section A-III/1 of the STCW Code. This training must be documented in an approved MCA approved Training Record Book (TRB) and its associated workbook. In addition you must also complete [delete as appropriate]:
- i. **\*A Graduate (Degree), a holder of an MCA-approved Marine Engineering Qualification, Advanced Certificate/Diploma in Marine Engineering, or an engineering apprenticeship (NV level 3),** must complete a further three months of combined workshop skills and seagoing service, which can be made up of either:
    - one months' MCA-approved laboratory time and two months' combined seagoing service and/or industrial training **or**
    - three months' additional seagoing service **or**
    - three months' combined approved workshop and/or industrial training;
  - ii. **A HND student/Advanced Diploma** must complete a further six months' combined workshop skills and seagoing service, which can be made up of:
    - at least three months' seagoing service; **and**
    - three months' of combined approved workshop skills training, industrial training or additional seagoing service;
  - iii. **A HNC holder/Advanced Certificate** must complete a further 9 months' combined workshop skills and seagoing service, which can be made up of:
    - at least six months' seagoing service; **and**
    - three months' of combined approved workshop skills training, industrial training or additional seagoing service;
- (b) General Engineering Science A & B programme and pass the applicable MCA professional examinations\*;
- (c) Hold the applicable ancillary and safety course certificates listed in **Table A** below;



(d) Pass the MCA EOW professional Engineering Knowledge examinations at an approved centre. This will include the following sections:

- General,
- Motor and/or Steam,
- Control Engineering\*;

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

(f) Pass the MCA oral examination 'STCW Regulation – III/1 Engineer Officer of the Watch motor and/or steam'.

**The Engineering Knowledge professional examination and MCA oral examination must be passed within three years prior to the date of the issue of your Certificate of Competency.**

| <b>Table A</b>  |                   |                       |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Ancillary/Safety Course Certificate</b>            | <b>EOO1 III/1</b> | <b>STCW Reference</b> |
| <b>Personal Survival Techniques</b>                   | Yes               | A-V1/1-1              |
| <b>Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting</b>              | Yes               | A-V1/1-2              |
| <b>Elementary First Aid</b>                           | Yes               | A-V1/1-3              |
| <b>Personal Safety and Social Responsibility</b>      | Yes               | A-V1/1-4              |
| <b>Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats</b> | Yes               | A-V1/2*               |
| <b>Advanced Fire Fighting</b>                         | Yes               | A-VI/3                |
| <b>Medical First Aid</b>                              | Yes               | A-V1/4-1              |
| <b>High Voltage (operational)</b>                     | Yes               | A-III/1               |
| <b>HELM (operational)</b>                             | Yes               | A-III/1               |

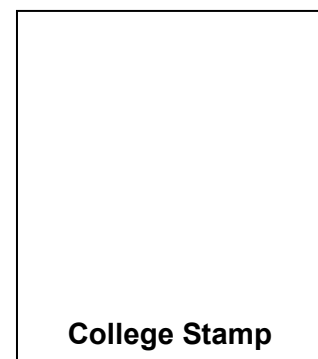
Confirmation of Exemptions: I can confirm that the above named candidate has demonstrated the required standard for the underpinning knowledge for their operational level (EOOW) CoC and therefore are:

- Exempt from General Engineering Science A & B programme and the applicable examinations\*;
- Exempt from EOOW Control Engineering Examination\*;
- Not exempt from any of the EOOW requirements\*.

Yours sincerely,

Lecturer's Name  
Nautical College

\*Delete as appropriate.



## Engineer Cadet/Junior Engineer/ Rating Seagoing Service Testimonial for Maritime and Coastguard Agency

### Company Address/Contact Details

|                  |         |  |  |
|------------------|---------|--|--|
| Company Name:    |         |  |  |
| Address:         |         |  |  |
| Contact Details: | Tel:    |  |  |
|                  | E-mail: |  |  |

### This is to certify that:

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Full name of Trainee/Rating:       |  |
| Date of Birth:                     |  |
| Discharge Book or Passport Number: |  |

### has served on:

|                                    |  |                                   |  |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name of vessel:                    |  |                                   |  |
| IMO number:                        |  | Type of vessel:                   |  |
| Type/make of propelling machinery: |  | Type/make of auxiliary machinery: |  |
| Power kW:                          |  | Type of boilers:                  |  |
| Shaft power kW:                    |  | Vessel GT:                        |  |
| <b>Date of joining:</b>            |  | <b>Date of discharge:</b>         |  |

### Please record, below, the actual watchkeeping/UMS time undertaken on this voyage:

During this period the above-named trainee/rating accrued the following engine room watchkeeping (under the supervision of a certificated engineer officer) for not less than four hours out of every 24 hours while the vessel was engaged on seagoing voyages:

\_\_\_\_\_ days

In addition the above-named trainee/rating:

- a) Regularly carried out other duties in connection with the routine and maintenance of the ship\*
- b) Was granted no leave of absence\*
- c) Was granted leave of absence as follows:

.....  
\*Delete as appropriate



**This section must be completed.**

My report on the service of the above-named trainee/rating, during the period stated, is as follows:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Conduct:          |  |
| Ability:          |  |
| General comments: |  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Type of Tanker:</b>   |  |
| During this period the ship carried the following types of cargo(es) (the different types and grades of oil, gas and chemicals should be specified): |  |
| I confirm the above-named trainee/rating has gained experience in carrying out regular cargo handling duties during the period stated:               |  |

**PART 4 – OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Name of Chief Engineer**:</b>   |   |
| <b>Certificate Details:</b>        |   |
| <b>CoC Number:</b>                 |   |
| <b>Issuing Administration:</b>     |   |
| <b>Signature Chief Engineer**:</b> |   |
| <b>Date:</b>                       |   |
| <b>Ship's/Company stamp:</b>       | <b>** In exceptional circumstances this testimonial may be signed by a responsible official of the Company.</b> |

