



# MSN 1861 (M) Amendment 1

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## Training & Certification Guidance: UK Procedure for the Revalidation of Certificates of Competency and Tanker Endorsement

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

*This notice replaces MSN 1861 (M)*

*This Notice includes guidance for seafarers relating to the revalidation of STCW certification issued under the Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping) Regulations 2022.*

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### Summary

This Merchant Shipping Note (MSN) sets out and explains the requirements to revalidate all Certificates of Competency and tanker endorsements under the Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention and Code. It also details the requirements to revalidate your Certificate of Competency (CoC) if you are unable to demonstrate the required seagoing service or relevant experience.

#### **This MSN covers:**

1. Introduction
2. Requirements to Revalidate a Certificate of Competency
3. Seagoing Service Requirements
4. Medical Standards
5. Updating Ancillary and Safety course Certification
6. Additional Ancillary Safety Course Certification
7. Removal of High Voltage and ECDIS Limitations
8. Revalidation of a Tanker Endorsement
9. Alternative Route for Revalidation
10. Security Training Requirements

#### **The Annexes of this MSN cover:**

- A. A list of acceptable alternative occupations for Certificate of Competency revalidation
- B. Acceptable High Voltage Courses for Certificate of Competency Revalidation
- C. Alternative Route for Revalidation



## 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 MSN as the ‘STCW Convention’ and ‘STCW Code’ respectively), including the provisions prescribing the mandatory minimum requirements for seafarers to revalidate their Certificates of Competency (regulation 42), and a reference in this Notice to the 2022 Regulations is a reference to the Regulations as amended.

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

- Hold a UK CoC;
- Demonstrate continued competence, relevant to the functions of the CoC held by either:
  - Completing a minimum period of seagoing service;
  - Demonstrating occupational experience the MCA considers equivalent to the seagoing service requirement for revalidation;
  - Completing the required examinations and, if applicable, additional seagoing service;
- Meet medical standards (including eyesight);
- Update or complete safety training;
- If applicable, complete the ancillary technical training.

## 2. Requirements to Revalidate a Certificate of Competency

2.1 The application form, MSF 4201, details the procedure and fee to revalidate a CoC. The application form can be found on our website: go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search “MSF 4201”.<sup>2</sup>

2.2 To revalidate your UK CoC you must submit:

- (a) A completed and signed application form (MSF 4201);
- (b) Your original CoC;
- (c) Evidence of having completed either:
  - The required seagoing service from section 3.1 and documented in one of the following:
    - Merchant Navy discharge book;
    - Certificates of discharge;
    - Professional Yachtsmen’s Association (PYA) Service Record Book;
    - Similar Maritime and Coast Guard Agency (MCA) approved service record book; **or**
  - Company letter(s) demonstrating 30 months in an acceptable occupation. Your letter must detail your role(s), responsibilities and dates of service. You must demonstrate that you have performed functions relating to the duties appropriate to the class or grade of certificate you hold, as per paragraph 3.5;

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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> MSF 4201: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/revalidation-of-a-certificate-of-competency-msf-4201](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revalidation-of-a-certificate-of-competency-msf-4201).



**Masters must also provide a company letter to verify their seagoing service; self-certified sea time will not be accepted<sup>3</sup>.**

(d) You must provide proof of completion of MCA approved or accepted refresher training within the last 5 years for:

- Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-1);
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-2);
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats (STCW Code – Table A-VI/2-1);
- Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/3);

(e) The required photos for your CoC (see application form);

(f) A valid ENG1 medical fitness certificate, or accepted equivalent<sup>4</sup>;

(g) If applicable, evidence of the required ancillary course completion certificates:

- For deck officers this is Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) training, please refer to section 6.1;
- For engineer officers this is High Voltage training, please refer to sections 6.2 to 6.4;

(h) The appropriate fee for revalidating your CoC.

2.3 To revalidate a tanker endorsement in your UK CoC, in addition to the above, you must provide either:

- Evidence of 3 months' seagoing service onboard tankers appropriate to the tanker endorsement you hold and documented in your discharge book and supported by seagoing service testimonials or company letters stating the cargo(es) carried and length(s) of service; **or**
- An MCA approved advanced tanker training course completion certificate applicable to your current tanker endorsement; **or**
- Evidence of completing MCA approved shipboard training; you must submit seagoing service testimonials or a company letter(s) stating the cargo carried and length of service on the vessel. You must also submit your original completed MCA approved training record book; **or**
- 30 months' employment in an occupation that demonstrates continued proficiency equivalent to the seagoing service required. This time must include regular onboard visits to tanker(s) appropriate to your endorsement.

Further information regarding the revalidation of tanker endorsements is available in section 8.

2.4 Once you have met the requirements listed above and the MCA has processed your application, the appropriate CoC will be revalidated. Certificates of Competency received for revalidation within a period 6 months prior to expiring shall be revalidated until the fifth anniversary of the current CoC expiry date. Certificates received outside of this 6-month period will be revalidated for 5 years from the date of revalidation.

2.5 **Deck officers:** Your UK GMDSS certificate should be submitted with your revalidation application so your endorsement expiry date can be synchronised with your CoC.

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<sup>3</sup> This is not required if you have a PYA Service Record Book or similar MCA-approved service record book signed off by an authorised official.

<sup>4</sup> Details of MCA Approved Medical Certificates are available from [www.gov.uk/seafarer-medical-certificates](http://www.gov.uk/seafarer-medical-certificates).



## 2.6 You must check and meet the current regulatory requirements when you submit your application to revalidate your CoC.<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Seagoing Service Requirements

3.1 Approved Seagoing Service for the issue of a Certificate of Proficiency (CoP), is the time that you are signed on a vessel of more than 15m in registered length operating in category C and D waters or beyond. Seagoing service will be reckoned from the date of engagement to the date of discharge. A month is defined as a calendar month or 30 days if made up of periods of less than 1 month.

3.2 To revalidate your CoC you must demonstrate approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held for a period of either:

- At least 12 months in total during the preceding 5 years immediately prior to revalidating your CoC; **or**
- At least 3 months in total during the preceding 6 months immediately prior to revalidating your CoC; **or**
- At least 3 months as a supernumerary immediately prior to revalidation of your CoC.

### 3.3 Vessel Size

For the revalidation of a Deck Certificate of Competency, seagoing service in the deck department in the capacity of a Master or deck officer on seagoing ships of more than 80 GT or 24 metres.

For the revalidation of an Engineer Certificate of Competency, seagoing service in the engine department in the capacity of an engineer officer on seagoing ships of at least 750kW registered power.

For the revalidation of a ETO Certificate of Competency, seagoing service must be in the engine department in the capacity of an ETO officer on seagoing ships of at least 750kW registered power.

For the revalidation of yacht restricted Certificates of Competency, the MCA will accept onboard yacht service in the deck department, where you must have served as a Master or deck officer in yachts of more than 15 metres. Yacht service includes a combination of actual sea service, stand-by service and/or yard service. For definitions, please refer to MSN 1858 (Amendment 1), MSN 1859 (Amendment 1) and section 5.9 of MSN 1904.<sup>6</sup>

For the revalidation of a code vessel CoC, the MCA will accept at 6 months' seagoing service (on code vessels) in total during the 5 years immediately prior to revalidating your CoC.<sup>7</sup>

### 3.4 Vessel Area of Operation

For your CoC revalidation, the MCA will accept seagoing service performed on vessels meeting the above requirements, operating outside of categorised waters around the coast

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<sup>5</sup> Further information and guidance is available from: [www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-uk-seafarer-coc-deck-and-engineer-officers](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-uk-seafarer-coc-deck-and-engineer-officers).

<sup>6</sup> For further details please refer to MSN 1857 (Amendment 1): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1857-mf-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-engineer-officers-and-engineer-operators](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1857-mf-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-engineer-officers-and-engineer-operators).

<sup>7</sup> A 'Code Vessel' is defined as any commercial vessel (under 24 metre) covered by the Small Craft codes, for further information please refer to [www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-craft-codes](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-craft-codes).



of the UK or beyond the harbour limits for waters outside the UK. If you are working on vessels operating in categorised waters, please refer to section 3.6 for the revalidation requirements.

### 3.5 Calculating Seagoing Service

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 deck department and will be reckoned from the date of engagement to the date of discharge.

A month is defined as a calendar month or 30 days if made up of periods of less than 1 month.

For yacht restricted Certificates of Competency, please refer to MSN 1858 (Amendment 1), MSN 1859 (Amendment 1), and section 5.9 of MSN 1904 for further information.<sup>8</sup>

### 3.6 Acceptable Occupation

If you are unable to demonstrate the above seagoing service you may revalidate your CoC by demonstrating at least 30 months' employment in an occupation the MCA considers equivalent to seagoing service, in the 5 years immediately prior to revalidating your CoC. Occupations will be considered equivalent if you can demonstrate proficiency by virtue of having performed functions relating to the duties appropriate to CoC held. For a list of acceptable occupations please refer to **Annex A**.

If you are unable to meet these requirements you will need to refer to section 9.

## 4. Medical Fitness and Eyesight Standards

4.1 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>9</sup>. Details on the application of those Regulations are found in MSN 1886, or any subsequent amendment.<sup>10</sup>

4.2 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. Further information can be obtained by contacting the MCA Seafarer Medical Team: [medical@mca.gov.uk](mailto:medical@mca.gov.uk).

4.3 For a CoC revalidation you must produce a valid medical fitness certificate, either;

- (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.

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<sup>8</sup> Please refer to MSN 1858 (Amendment 1): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1858-mf-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-deck-officers-on-large-yachts-24m-and-over](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1858-mf-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-deck-officers-on-large-yachts-24m-and-over); MSN 1859 (Amendment 1): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1859-mf-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-engineer-officers-on-large-yachts-24m-and-over](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1859-mf-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-engineer-officers-on-large-yachts-24m-and-over); and MSN 1904: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1904-mf-uk-requirements-for-engineer-officer-small-vessel-certificate-of-competency](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1904-mf-uk-requirements-for-engineer-officer-small-vessel-certificate-of-competency).

<sup>9</sup> These Regulations are amended by the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Medical Certification) 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>10</sup> Details of MCA-Approved Medical Certificates are available from: [www.gov.uk/seafarer-medical-certificates](http://www.gov.uk/seafarer-medical-certificates).



Updated lists are available from the MCA website.

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

## 5. Updating Safety Training

5.1 If you are revalidating your Certificates of Competency, you must submit documentary evidence of having completed MCA approved or accepted updating-refresher training within the previous 5 years for:

- Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-1);
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-2);
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats (STCW Code – Table A-VI/2-1);
- Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/3).

5.2 For the revalidation of a CoC the MCA will accept updating safety training courses when approved by an administration with whom it has an agreement to recognise Certificates of Competency for the purpose of issuing a UK Flag State Endorsement (FSE)/Certificate of Equivalent Competence (CEC). To obtain a list of these administrations please refer to our website: go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search “MCA CEC”.<sup>11</sup>

5.3 The MCA will accept certain certificates issued under the authority of any IMO 'White List' country, or certain certificates issued under the authority of any EU Member State, as well as by any country noted in MIN 643.<sup>12</sup>

5.4 Port State Control Officers may require you to provide documentary evidence of having maintained the required standard of competence, to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed above. Presenting the documentary evidence obtained by completing an MCA approved updating-refresher course will meet this requirement.

5.5 Details of updating-refresher training can be found in MSN 1865 (Amendment 1).<sup>13</sup>

## 6. Additional Ancillary and Safety course Certification

6.1 Ancillary technical training for deck officers – ECDIS

To be able to use your UK CoC on vessels fitted with ECDIS equipment you must have completed one of the following:

- An MCA approved Navigation Radar and ARPA Simulator (NARAS)/Navigation Aids and Equipment and Simulator Training (NAEST) operational level course completed on or after 1 January 2005; **or**
- An MCA approved NARAS/ NAEST management level course completed on or after 1 January 2005; **or**
- An MCA approved ECDIS course completed on or after 1 January 2005; **or**

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<sup>11</sup> For further details please refer to: [www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-cec-for-deck-and-engineer-officers](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-cec-for-deck-and-engineer-officers).

<sup>12</sup> For further details please refer to MIN 643: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/min-643-maritime-and-coastguard-agency-mca-short-course-approval-process-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/min-643-maritime-and-coastguard-agency-mca-short-course-approval-process-guidance).

<sup>13</sup> For further details please refer to MSN 1865 (Amendment 1): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1865-m-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-emergency-occupational-safety-security-medical-care-and-survival-functions](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1865-m-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-emergency-occupational-safety-security-medical-care-and-survival-functions).





- An ECDIS simulator training course in compliance with the current IMO Model Course 1.27 **and accepted by the MCA for the purpose of CoC revalidation only.**

For a list of MCA-approved and accepted courses please refer to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search “MCA ATP” or “MCA Approved Training Providers”.<sup>14</sup>

Your course completion certificate must be submitted with your application for a CoC revalidation. If you do not meet the above requirement you will receive the following CoC limitation:

“This certificate is not valid for service on ships fitted with ECDIS”

Deck officers may subsequently request the removal of this limitation by providing documentary evidence of MCA approved ECDIS training.

## 6.2 Ancillary Technical Training for Engineer Officers – High Voltage

A High Voltage (over 1000V) system is where the voltage is generated and distributed at high voltage or transformed to and distributed at high voltage. It does not include systems where high voltage is utilised locally e.g. ignition systems, radio transmission, radar and other navigational equipment.

If you do not intend to work on ships with High Voltage systems there is no requirement for you to undertake additional High Voltage training. If you do not undertake the High Voltage Training you will receive the following CoC limitation:

“This certificate is not valid for service on ships fitted with High Voltage (over 1000V) systems”.

If you do not want this limitation placed on your CoC you should read the following section applicable to your certificate.

## 6.3 EOW Certificate of Competency STCW Convention Regulation III/1 (Operational level)

To avoid having the High Voltage limitation, you will need to show compliance with the STCW requirements. In addition to the current revalidation requirements, you will have to provide documentary evidence of:

- Having completed a High Voltage (HV) operational course given by an MCA approved training provider; **or**
- Having completed one of the following seagoing service requirements in the engine room on vessels fitted with HV systems;
  - 6 months’ seagoing service in the preceding 5 years; **or**
  - 3 months’ seagoing service during the last 12 months.

Seagoing service evidence can be provided in the form of a company letter signed by an authorised official within the company.

<sup>14</sup> MCA Approved Training providers Lists: [www.gov.uk/guidance/mca-approved-training-providers-atp](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/mca-approved-training-providers-atp).



#### **6.4 Second or Chief Engineer Officer Certificate of Competency STCW Convention Regulation III/2 and III/3 (Management level)**

To avoid having the High Voltage limitation, in addition to the current revalidation requirements, you will have to provide documentary evidence of having completed High Voltage (HV) management course given by an MCA approved training provider.

If you have completed a High Voltage course prior to 1 July 2013 that was given by an MCA approved training provider, please refer to **Annex B** to see if it can be accepted.

### **7. Removal of High Voltage and ECDIS Limitations**

7.1 Seafarers with ECDIS or High Voltage Limitations who provide the appropriate documentary evidence with their application for a CoC revalidation will have the limitation(s) removed. Alternatively, these limitations can be removed by submitting the appropriate documentary evidence and the fee for an upgrade of a CoC.

### **8. Revalidation of a Tanker Endorsement**

To revalidate an existing tanker endorsement you must either:

- Complete seagoing service, performing duties appropriate to the tanker certificate or endorsement held, for a period of at least 3 months in total in the preceding 5 years; **or**
- Successfully complete a training course given by an MCA approved training provider appropriate to the tanker endorsement held; **or**
- Complete 30 months' employment in an occupation that demonstrates continued proficiency equivalent to the seagoing service required.

#### **8.1 To Revalidate a Tanker Endorsement with relevant Seagoing Service**

In addition to the current revalidation requirements, you must provide evidence of approved tanker seagoing service appropriate to the endorsement(s) in your CoC. Evidence must be submitted in the form of sea service testimonials or a company letter stating the cargo carried and length of service on the vessel.

For a tanker endorsement to remain valid, you must provide evidence of seagoing service appropriate to the tanker endorsement in your CoC:

- For an oil tanker endorsement to be revalidated you must submit documentary evidence of 3 months' seagoing onboard an oil tanker;
- For a chemical tanker endorsement to be revalidated you must submit documentary evidence of 3 months' seagoing service onboard a chemical tanker;
- For a gas tanker endorsement to be revalidated you must submit documentary evidence of 3 months' seagoing service onboard a gas tanker;
- For a vegetable oil tanker endorsement to be revalidated you must submit documentary evidence of 3 months' seagoing service onboard a vegetable oil tanker.

Seafarers may subsequently request the removal of a tanker limitation by providing documentary evidence of approved training or required seagoing service and the appropriate fee.

#### **8.2 Revalidation of a Tanker Endorsement by completing training run by an MCA training provider**

To revalidate your tanker endorsement by this option you must complete either:





- At least 2 weeks' MCA approved<sup>15</sup> shipboard training on the appropriate type of tanker, in a supernumerary capacity, which includes at least 1 loading and 1 unloading operation and is documented in an MCA approved training record book; **or**
- An advanced tanker training course given by an MCA approved training provider appropriate to your tanker endorsement.

To provide evidence that you have completed the required shipboard training, you must submit seagoing service testimonials or a company letter(s) stating the cargo carried and length of service on the vessel together with your discharge book. You must also submit your original completed MCA approved training record book.

To provide evidence that you have completed an advanced tanker training course given by an MCA approved training provider you must submit a course completion certificate.

### 8.3 Revalidation of a Tanker Endorsement by Completing Appropriate Employment

You may be eligible for a tanker endorsement revalidation if you have gained 30 months' employment in an occupation that demonstrates continued proficiency equivalent to the seagoing service required. This time must include regular onboard visits to tanker(s) appropriate to your endorsement. If you believe you are eligible, you must submit a company letter signed by your line manager confirming your job title, length of service, responsibilities and confirmation that you regularly visit relevant tankers and monitor onboard operations.

### 8.4 Removal of Tanker Endorsements

If you cannot demonstrate the required seagoing service appropriate to the tanker certificate or have not completed the required training, you will have your tanker endorsement removed from your CoC.

### 8.5 Human Element and Leadership and Management (HELM) Requirements

If you are revalidating a current CoC you will not be required to undertake the additional HELM training. Candidates for new Certificates of Competency, and those upgrading to the next level, will be required to undertake the HELM training in full.

### 8.6 IGF and Polar Code refresher/revalidation training requirements

For information regarding the requirements for undertaking refresher training for IGF Code Refresher Training please refer to section 12 of MSN 1866 (Amendment 1). For further information regarding the Polar Code revalidation requirements please refer to section 16 of MSN 1866 (Amendment 1).<sup>16</sup>

## 9. Alternative Route for Revalidation

9.1 If you are unable to revalidate a CoC by providing the evidence required in section 2 you will need to apply through the alternative revalidation route. A flow diagram outlining the procedure can be found in **Annex C**. If you hold a CoC expired within the last 10 years

<sup>15</sup> The Company and vessel must be MCA approved. For further information please refer to MSN 1866 (Amendment 1): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1866-m-amendment-1-training-requirements-for-seafarers-on-tankers-igf-code-ships-ships-that-operate-in-polar-waters-and-passenger-ships](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1866-m-amendment-1-training-requirements-for-seafarers-on-tankers-igf-code-ships-ships-that-operate-in-polar-waters-and-passenger-ships).

<sup>16</sup> For further information please refer to MSN 1866 (Amendment 1): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1866-m-amendment-1-training-requirements-for-seafarers-on-tankers-igf-code-ships-ships-that-operate-in-polar-waters-and-passenger-ships](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1866-m-amendment-1-training-requirements-for-seafarers-on-tankers-igf-code-ships-ships-that-operate-in-polar-waters-and-passenger-ships).



please refer to section 9.2 below. If you hold a CoC expired outside of this 10 year period please refer to sections 9.7 and 9.8.

9.2 You may apply to the MCA for a Notice of Eligibility (NOE) for an MCA oral examination. On passing the oral examination you will be issued with a temporary CoC for service at a lower rank. After completing 3 months' seagoing service your CoC will be revalidated in full. Temporary Certificates of Competency will be issued for a period of 6 months; the MCA, on the recommendation of the Chief Examiner, may extend the certificates beyond this period.

9.3 If you are either a Deck Officer of the Watch or Engineering Officer of the Watch who cannot revalidate through the means of paragraph 9.2 in this Notice, you may sit a FULL Deck Officer of the Watch or Engineering Officer of the Watch oral examination. On successful completion of the oral examination and providing you meet the other revalidation requirements, your certificate will be revalidated in full.

9.4 Applications must be submitted to the MCA with the full supporting documentation specified below.

9.5 The application form MSF 4258 details the procedure and fee to revalidate through the alternative route. The application form is available to download from our website: go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search "MSF 4258".<sup>17</sup>

9.6 To revalidate your UK CoC you must submit:

- (a) A completed and signed application form, MSF 4258;
- (b) You must provide certificates showing completion of MCA approved or accepted updating-refresher training within the last 5 years for:
  - Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-1);
  - Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-2);
  - Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats (STCW Code – Table A-VI/2-1);
  - Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/3);
  - For Masters and Chief Mates only: CoP in Medical Care (STCW Code – Table A-VI/4-2) issued within the last 5 years;
  - For Deck officers only, a GMDSS Certificate approved by the MCA;
- (c) An attested copy of your passport;
- (d) A passport size photograph (attested as true likeness);
- (e) A valid ENG1 medical fitness certificate, or accepted equivalent;
- (f) If applicable the required ancillary technical training (for deck officers, ECDIS refer to section 6.1. For engineer officers HV refer to section 6.2 to 6.4);
- (g) The appropriate fee.

Once you have completed 3 months'<sup>18</sup> seagoing service in the appropriate capacity you should submit your temporary CoC, discharge book or certificates of Discharge and seagoing service testimonials with a covering letter to the MCA, Seafarer Services Branch. Once the seagoing service has been checked, the MCA will issue you with a full UK CoC.

**9.7 Additional requirements for revalidation if your Certificate of Competency expired over 10 years prior to making an application.**

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<sup>17</sup> MSF 4258: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-route-for-a-coc-revalidation-msf-4258](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-route-for-a-coc-revalidation-msf-4258).

<sup>18</sup> Evidence of seagoing service is not required for EOOW or OOW revalidating through paragraph 9.3.



9.7.1 If you hold a Chief Mate or Master's Certificates of Competency you must in addition to the requirements listed in 9.6 (a) to (g) above:

- (a) Pass the MCA OOW oral examination<sup>19</sup>;
- (b) Whilst holding an OOW II/1 temporary CoC serve as an OOW on seagoing ships of more than 80 GT or 24 metres for at least 3 months;
- (c) After obtaining the seagoing service as an OOW pass the appropriate MCA oral examination for the original Certificate held. For Chief Mate the MCA's Chief Mate oral examination and the MCA's Master oral examination for a Master CoC.<sup>20</sup>

Holders of an OOW CoC who have not been to sea for over 15 years<sup>21</sup> prior to making an application for revalidation must, in addition to the requirements listed in section 9.6 (a) to (g), successfully complete a NAEST Operational course.

Holders of a Chief Mate or Master's CoC who have not been to sea for over 15 years<sup>22</sup> prior to making an application for revalidation must, in addition to the requirements listed in sections 9.6 (a) to (g) and 9.7.1 (a) to (c), successfully complete a NAEST Management course.

9.7.2 Holders of a Second Engineer or Chief Engineer's Certificates of Competency must in addition to the requirements listed in 9.6 (a) to (g) above:

- (a) Pass the MCA oral examination 'STCW Regulation – III/1 Engineer Officer of the Watch motor **and/or** steam'<sup>23</sup>;
- (b) Whilst holding an EOW III/1 temporary CoC serve as an EOW on seagoing ships of more than 750 kW for at least 3 months;
- (c) After obtaining the seagoing service as an EOW pass the appropriate oral examination for the original Certificate held. This will be either 'STCW Regulation – III/2 Second Engineer' or 'STCW Regulation – III/2 Chief Engineer'.<sup>24</sup>

## 9.8 Additional requirements for revalidation for those who have not been to sea for over 20 years<sup>25</sup> prior to making an application.

9.8.1 Holders of an OOW CoC who have not been to sea for over 20 years prior to submitting an application for revalidation must in addition to the requirements listed in 9.6 (a) to (g) above:

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<sup>19</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).

<sup>20</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).

<sup>21</sup> If you cannot provide evidence of when you were last at sea we will use the date of issue of your Certificate of Competency.

<sup>22</sup> If you cannot provide evidence of when you were last at sea we will use the date of issue of your Certificate of Competency.

<sup>23</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).

<sup>24</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).

<sup>25</sup> If you cannot provide evidence of when you were last at sea we will use the date of issue of your Certificate of Competency.



- (a) Successfully complete a NAEST Operational course (regardless of whether you have completed this prior to obtaining your original CoC);
- (b) Pass the MCA OOW safety examinations at an approved MCA exam centre in the following subjects:
  - Navigation;
  - Stability and operations.
- (c) Pass the MCA OOW oral examination<sup>26</sup>.

9.8.2 Holders of a Chief Mate or Master's CoC who have not been to sea for over 20 years<sup>27</sup> prior to making an application must in addition to the requirements listed in sections 9.6 (a) to (g);

- (a) Successfully complete a NAEST Management course (regardless of whether you have completed this prior to obtaining your original CoC);
- (b) Pass the MCA Chief Mate/ Master's safety examinations at an MCA approved exam centre in the following subjects:
  - Navigation;
  - Stability and structure.
- (c) Pass the appropriate oral examination for the original Certificate held. For Chief Mate's the MCA's Chief Mate oral examination and the MCA's Master oral examination for a Master CoC.<sup>28</sup>

9.8.3 Holders of an EOOW CoC who have not been to sea for over 20 years<sup>29</sup> prior to making an application must in addition to the requirements listed in 9.6 (a) to (g) above:

- (a) Pass the MCA EOOW professional examinations at an MCA approved exam centre in the following subjects:
  - Engineering Knowledge sections<sup>30</sup>:
    - General;
    - Motor **and/or** steam;
    - Control Engineering;
- (b) Pass MCA the oral examination 'STCW Regulation – III/1 Engineer Officer of the Watch'.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>26</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).

<sup>27</sup> If you cannot provide evidence of when you were last at sea we will use the date of issue of your Certificate of Competency.

<sup>28</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).

<sup>29</sup> If you cannot provide evidence of when you were last at sea we will use the date of issue of your Certificate of Competency.

<sup>30</sup> These sections must be passed in a single attempt. If you fail one or both of the sections you will need to retake all of the sections again.

<sup>31</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).



9.8.4 Holders of a Second Engineer or Chief Engineer CoC who have not been to sea for over 20 years<sup>32</sup> prior to making an application must in addition to the requirements listed in 9.6 (a) to (g) above:

(a) Pass the applicable MCA Second Engineer or Chief Engineer professional examinations in:

- Engineering Knowledge sections<sup>33,30</sup>:
  - General;
  - Motor **and/or** steam;

(b) Pass the appropriate MCA oral examination for the original Certificate held. This will be either 'STCW Regulation – III/2 Second Engineer' or 'STCW Regulation – III/2 Chief Engineer'.<sup>34</sup>

### 9.9 Shore based Refresher Training for Yacht Restricted Certificates of Competency

To revalidate a yacht restricted Deck CoC you can complete a shore-based refresher course given by an MCA approved training provider. The following courses and examinations are accepted:

- For OOW (Yachts): Successful completion of MCA approved Navigation and Radar, and General Ship Knowledge training modules and passing the corresponding MCA safety examinations;
- For Master (Yachts): Successful completion of MCA approved 'Navigation, Radar and ARPA Simulator (Master Yachts)' training module and pass the corresponding MCA safety module examination.

9.10 To revalidate your yacht restricted Deck CoC you must submit your original course completion certificate and module pass certificate to the MCA with:

- (a) A completed and signed application form (MSF 4201);
- (b) Your original yacht restricted CoC;
- (c) You must provide certificates showing completion of MCA approved **or** accepted updating-refresher training within the last 5 years for:
  - Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-1);
  - Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-2);
  - Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats (STCW Code – Table A-VI/2-1);
  - Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/3);
- (d) A passport-size photograph (attested as true likeness);
- (e) Valid ENG1 Medical Fitness Certificate, or accepted equivalent;
- (f) An MCA approved ECDIS Certificate;
- (g) The appropriate fee.

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<sup>32</sup> If you cannot provide evidence of when you were last at sea we will use the date of issue of your Certificate of Competency.

<sup>33</sup> These sections must be passed in a single attempt. If you fail one or both of the sections you will need to retake all of the sections again.

<sup>34</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).



## 10. Security Training Requirements

- 2.1 If you are to serve on ships to which the International Ship and Port facility (ISPS) Code applies, you must undertake approved security awareness training. Training and instructions must meet the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraph 4 of the STCW Code, and STCW Code Table A-VI/6-1 and lead to a CoP in Security Awareness. If you have designated security duties under the Ship Security Plan, you must undertake approved training in designated security duties. This training must meet the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraphs 6-8 of the STCW Code, and STCW Code Table A-VI6-2 and lead to issue of a CoP in Designated Security Duties. There is no requirement to submit these certificates when revalidating your CoC.
- 2.2 Please refer to MSN 1865 (Amendment 1) for further information.<sup>35</sup>

### More Information

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

Tel: +44 (0) 203 8174316  
e-mail: [revalidation@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:revalidation@mcga.gov.uk)

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

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

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<sup>35</sup> For further information please refer to MSN 1865 (Amendment 1):  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1865-m-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-emergency-occupational-safety-security-medical-care-and-survival-functions](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1865-m-amendment-1-uk-requirements-for-emergency-occupational-safety-security-medical-care-and-survival-functions).







### **A list of acceptable alternative occupations for Certificate of Competency revalidation**

#### **Acceptable occupations:**

A list of occupations which will be favourably considered is given below. It is not exhaustive and applications from certificate-holders engaged in other occupations may also be considered. Applications for revalidation may be made by certificate-holders who have been engaged in the listed occupations for at least 30 months in the preceding 5 years:

- Marine Pilots;
- MCA surveyors;
- Maritime college lecturers;
- Technical, engineering and marine superintendents or ship repair managers;
- Harbour Masters;
- Hydrographic surveyors;
- Classification Society marine surveyors;
- Officers working on vessels of over 24 metres within categorised waters;
- Engineering and Deck officers actively managing yacht repair, refit or construction.
- Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Operators.



## **Acceptable High Voltage Courses for Certificate of Competency Revalidation**

Courses previously undertaken prior to 1 July 2013 do not need to be MCA approved but you must provide documentary evidence confirming the course covers all the following topics:

### **Operational level**

- The hazards associated with high-voltage systems;
- The functional, operational and safety requirements for a marine high-voltage system;
- Basic arrangement of high-voltage systems and their protective devices;
- Safety procedures related to high-voltage systems;
- Immediate actions to be taken under fault conditions.

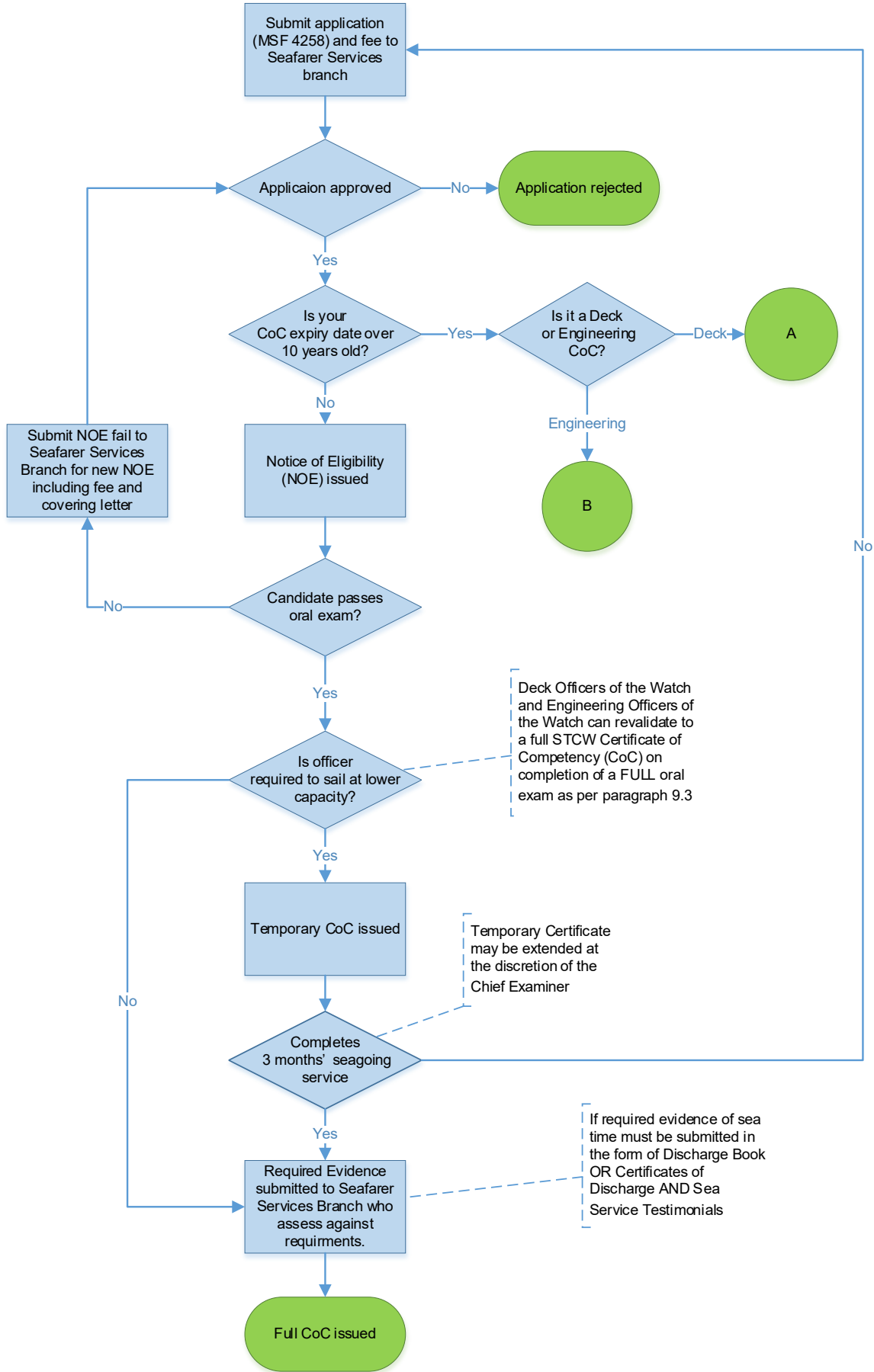
### **Management level**

- The functional, operational and safety requirements for a marine high-voltage system;
- Assignment of suitably qualified personnel to carry out maintenance and repair of high-voltage switchgear of various types;
- Taking remedial action necessary during faults in a high-voltage system;
- Producing a switching strategy for isolating components of a high-voltage system;
- Selecting suitable apparatus for isolation and testing of high-voltage equipment;
- Carrying out a switching and isolation procedure on a marine high-voltage system, complete with safety documentation;
- Performing tests of insulation resistance and polarization index on high-voltage equipment.

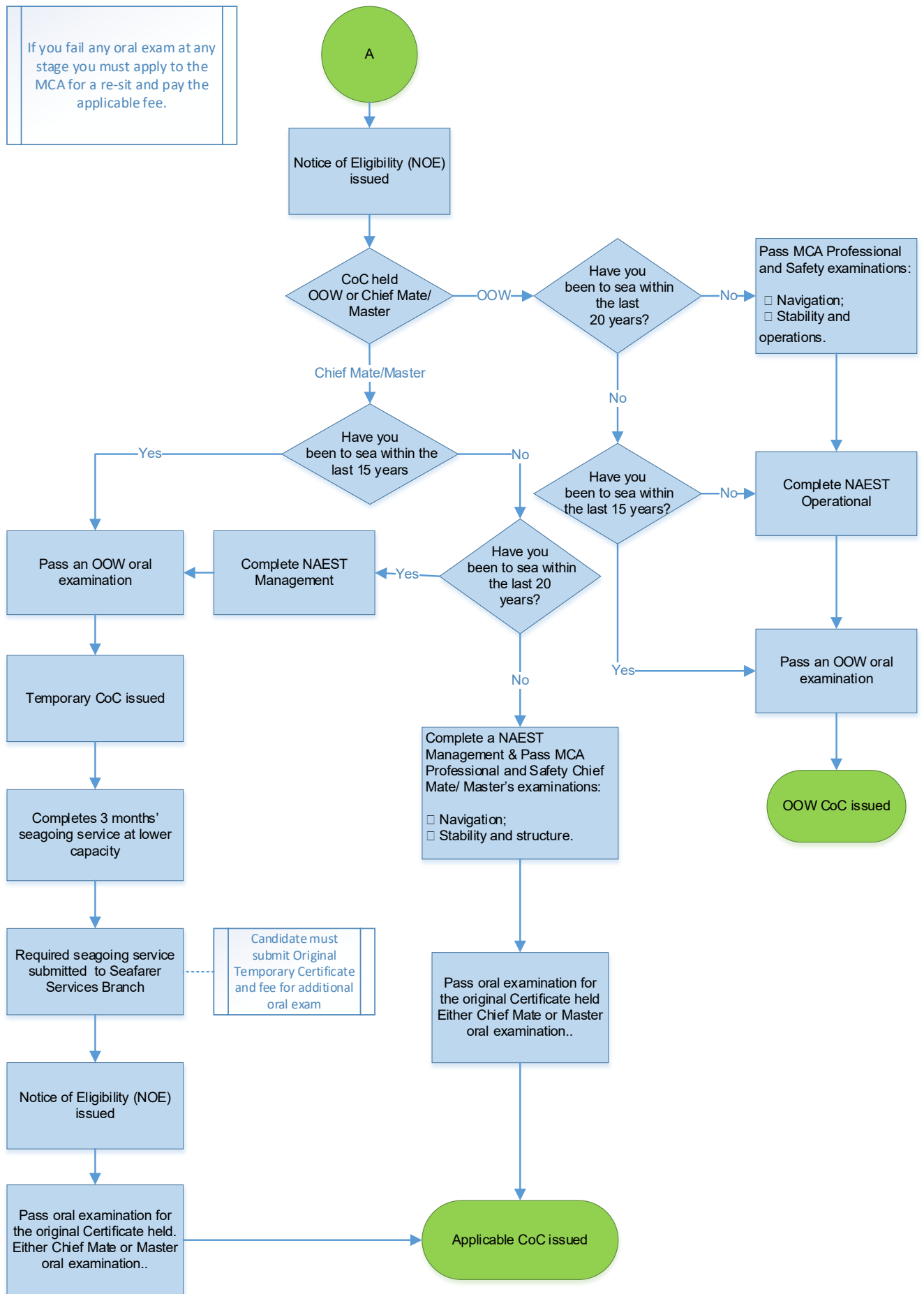
**The original certificate and course syllabus must be submitted with your application.**



**Alternate Route for Revalidation**



If you fail any oral exam at any stage you must apply to the MCA for a re-sit and pay the applicable fee.



If you fail any oral exam at any stage you must apply to the MCA for a re-sit and pay the applicable fee.

