



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

MCA Remote Operator Training and Certification

Introduction to the Remote Operator Pilot Framework

June 2025

1.0 Introduction

- 1.0.1 Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) currently include the use of vessels capable of remote control from a Remote Operations Centre (ROC).
- 1.0.2 As maritime industries adopt remote operations, the role and functions of Remote Operators controlling these vessels are increasing.
- 1.0.3 This pilot framework sets out a generic training and certification framework. This has been set out to ensure that Remote Operators can perform their role(s) safely and effectively.
- 1.0.4 The objective of this framework is to ensure a standardised level of competence and experience can be adopted across UK industry and academia to ensure safe remote operations.
- 1.0.5 The pilot framework set out in these documents have been developed by stakeholders across industry, academia and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). It is an initial package of work, the purpose of which is to pilot, review and amend the framework.
- 1.0.6 The review of the framework shall be performed throughout the short course approvals process (outlined in MIN 643) and will be considered in future iterations of the framework.
- 1.0.7 The requirements set out in MGN 703, still apply to vessels certified under The Workboat Code Edition 3. Any new requirements introduced in this framework shall be reviewed and phased in alignment with the amendment(s) to any applicable Codes or M-Notices.

2.0 Background

- 2.0.1 To date, the MCA has assessed Remote Operator training and certification standards during the approval of a safety case, or a through a voluntary recognition process of a training course.
- 2.0.2 To ensure standardised delivery and assessment, the MCA has engaged with industry and academia to develop a framework that sets out the requirements of certification and pilot generic Remote Operator training courses. This has been achieved through the National Correspondence Group for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (NCG-MASS) initiative. Participants of this working group are set out in Annex 1 of this document. All stakeholders are encouraged to engage in the future development of this framework and collaborate through MCA working groups.
- 2.0.3 The information set out in this pilot framework may be used to deliver pilot courses in Remote Operations. These may be considered by MCA during the Short Course Approvals process set out in MIN 643 (M) and MSN 1865 (M), as amended.

3.0 Objectives

- 3.0.1 The overarching goal of this framework is to set out a comprehensive training and certification framework for Remote Operators in the UK maritime industry.
- 3.0.2 This framework is intended to ensure that individuals operating remote-controlled vessels have the necessary skills and experience to perform their roles safely and efficiently.
- 3.0.3 The key objectives of the Remote Operator training and certification framework are to establish:
 - i) Remote Operator certification requirements
 - ii) Remote Operator training course requirements
 - iii) Remote Operator competency tables.
 - iv) Training Record Book (TRB) for completion during periods of in-service experience.
 - v) Associated guidance to support Training Providers.

4.0 Review and Outcomes

- 4.0.1 As Training Providers use this scheme to develop generic Remote Operator training courses, the MCA shall collect feedback from industry and academia for the annual review of the framework.
- 4.0.2 This framework shall enable:
- i) Remote operators to gain formal, recognised training in remote operations.
 - ii) Training Providers to gain recognition from the MCA for their training courses, subject to agreement with the MCA.
- 4.0.3 Nothing set out in this pilot framework alters or removes the application of existing requirements set out in UK regulations.
- 4.0.4 This initial framework establishes a common framework that enables Remote Operators to be trained and certified to a generic standard. This base standard shall foster consistency across the UK's maritime industry.
- 4.0.5 As the maritime industry continues to adopt new and existing technologies into remote operations, the review of this training and certification framework shall be coordinated by the MCA, as is required to ensure it is current and applicable.

5.0 Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.0.1 As the industry evolves and new technologies emerge, this standard will serve as a critical benchmark in ensuring that Remote Operators are prepared for the challenges ahead.
- 5.0.2 The MCA wishes to express its thanks to the organisations that have contributed their expertise and time to the creation of this framework.
- 5.0.3 All organisations wishing to pilot this framework are encouraged to engage with the Seafarers Technical Delivery Branch at the earliest opportunity. Please see the contact details section.

Annex 1 – NCG- MASS Participants

Autonaut	Ocean Infinity
BAE	SeaBot Maritime
BMT	SeaKit
City of Glasgow College	SeaRegs
Blackpool and the Fylde College	Serco
Fugro	SMI
Insite Systems	Tyne Coast College
International Maritime Rescue Federation	Sovereign Global
Kongsberg	Sulmara
L3 Harris	Thales
Mintra	University of Plymouth
NavyX	University of York
Maritime Training & Competence Certification for the UK (MTCS)	Warsash
The Nautical Institute	WISTA
Nautilus	The Workboat Association
National Oceanography Centre (NOC)	X Ocean
	Plymouth Marine Laboratory

Contact Details

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