



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

MARINE INFORMATION NOTE

MIN 689 (M) Amendment 3 Maritime Labour Convention, 2006: Food and catering recognised qualifications in food hygiene or food safety in catering for ship's cooks and others processing food in the galley

Notice to all shipowners, masters, crew agents, officers, seafarers and other ship board personnel

This notice should be read with part 8 of the merchant shipping (maritime labour convention)(minimum requirements for seafarers etc.) regulations 2014 and merchant shipping notice [MSN 1846 \(M\) Amendment 1](#) maritime labour convention 2006, food and catering: ship's cooks and catering Staff.

This MIN replaces MIN 689 (M) Amendment 2 and expires 30th November 2026

Summary

Part 8 of the merchant shipping (maritime labour convention) (minimum requirements for seafarers etc.) regulations 2014 (the "minimum requirements regulations") introduce a requirement for all ship's cooks, catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley to be suitably qualified in food hygiene or food safety in catering.

The MCA does not approve food hygiene or food safety in catering courses but accepts those accredited by the relevant awarding bodies. The qualifications and awarding bodies which are listed in this notice are those that fulfil the learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in annex 1 of [MSN 1846 \(M\) Amendment 1](#). Level 2 is the minimum acceptable level for ship's cooks, catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley.

The courses which the MCA accepts for pre-qualification for issue of a ship's cook certificate of competency are listed on the websites of the awarding bodies – see section 4 and tables 1, 2 & 3. Tables 1,2 & 3 lists the current accepted Ofqual courses only (provided for ease of

reference at the date of publication of this notice) and table 4 lists the discontinued courses but MCA will still accepted these food safety and food hygiene certificates within the certificates expiry date. For CIEH and REHIS, please visit the websites of the awarding bodies for the latest information.

The same learning outcomes Annex 1 of [MSN 1846\(M\) Amendment 1](#) apply for stewards, temporary support staff or other persons processing food in the galley, but these personnel are not required to hold the qualifications listed below, as it is expected that they would be working under qualified supervision.

1. Introduction

1.1 Under the minimum requirements regulations all ship's cooks must be suitably qualified in food hygiene or food safety in catering. All catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley must be properly trained or instructed in food hygiene or food safety.

2. Training requirements for catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley (regulation 40)

2.1 The shipowner must ensure that the ship's cook and any other person who processes food in the galley of a sea-going United Kingdom vessel is properly trained or instructed in food and personal hygiene, as well as safe handling and storage of food onboard ship, in accordance with the learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in annex 1 of [MSN 1846 \(M\) Amendment 1](#). A ship's cook must hold a qualification attesting these learning outcomes and must also complete the additional learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in annex 2 and the standards of training certification and watchkeeping safety courses listed in section 3 of [MSN 1846 \(M\) Amendment 1](#).

3. Online Delivery of courses

3.1 The MCA only accepts certificates from courses which are listed in MIN 689.

3.2 Online courses are required to be held with suitable control measures, to ensure that they remain an accepted qualification. Please note that the MCA will not accept course certificates which are not listed in MIN 689 and the MCA will not accept courses which have been delivered solely by computer-based training (CBT).

3.3 It is the responsibility of the student/applicant to contact the accredited course provider for a course listed in MIN 689 and establish how the course is to be delivered. If the course is delivered online, only courses delivered via a "virtual classroom" with interaction between the lecturer and students, and appropriate oversight of examinations, will be accepted.

4. Accepted Food Hygiene/Food Safety Qualifications

4.1 The qualifications and awarding bodies which the MCA accepts as meeting the learning outcomes and assessment criteria as set out in annex 1 of merchant shipping notice [MSN 1846 \(M\)](#) are listed on the following awarding body websites, with the Ofqual courses provided in tables 1 – 3 to this notice. Level 2 is the minimum acceptable level for ship's cooks, catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley.

4.2 [Ofqual Register](#)

4.2.1 To find the latest list of accepted courses on the Ofqual register, you need to visit the Ofqual website and download the full register and review the spreadsheet titled qualifications. We have filtered this list for ease of reference but this notice is only updated yearly but available as tables 1, 2 & 3 below.

4.2.2 Qualification search criteria to be filtered within the downloadable qualifications list; <https://register.ofqual.gov.uk/Download>

Filter by;

- level 2, 3 & 4
- hospitality in catering
- food safety in catering qualifications
- available to learners

4.3 Table 1: Level 2 Ofqual Courses which the MCA accepts

Qualification Number (where applicable)	Qualification Title	Owner Organisation Name	Owner Organisation (short name)	Qualification Level
501/1302/1	BIIAB Award in Food Safety in Catering	BIIAB	BIIAB	Level 2
500/5186/6	City & Guilds Award in Food Safety in Catering	City and Guilds of London Institute	City & Guilds	Level 2
603/6455/5	VTCT Award in Food Safety in Catering (No longer available to new learners)	VTCT	VTCT	Level 2
600/0343/1	Ascentis Award in Food Safety in Catering	Ascentis	Ascentis	Level 2
603/2395/4	RSPH Award in Food Safety and Hygiene	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	Level 2
603/3341/8	Skillsfirst Award in Food Hygiene (No longer available to new learners)	Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	Skillsfirst	Level 2
603/6062/8	CTH Award in Food Safety and Hygiene	The Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality	CTH	Level 2
600/4334/9	TLM Award in Food Safety in Catering	The Learning Machine	TLM	Level 2
601/1157/4	NOCN Award in Food Safety in Catering	NOCN	NOCN	Level 2
600/9385/7	FAA Award In Food Safety in Catering	FAA	FAA	Level 2
603/5849/X	Qualifi Award in Food Hygiene, Safety and Professional Workplace Effectiveness	Qualifi Ltd	QUALIFI	Level 2
603/0816/3	QNUK Award in Food Safety for Catering (RQF)	Qualifications Network	QNUK	Level 2

603/5373/9	QNUK Award in Food Safety for Catering (Refresher) (RQF)	Qualifications Network	QNUK	Level 2
603/4937/2	Highfield Award in Food Safety for Catering (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 2
603/7698/3	Highfield Award in Food Safety for Catering (Refresher) (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 2
603/0967/2	Highfield Award in Food Safety at Sea (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 2
603/1290/7	Open Awards Award in Food Safety in Catering	Open Awards	Open Awards	Level 2
603/4311/4	QA Award in Food Safety (Refresher) (RQF)	Qualsafe Awards	QA	Level 2
603/2594/X	QA Award in Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Qualsafe Awards	QA	Level 2
600/8219/7	AIM Qualifications Award in Food Safety in Catering	AIM Qualifications	AIM	Level 2
601/7794/9	iCQ Award In Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	iCan Qualifications Limited	iCQ	Level 2
601/7793/7	iCQ Level 2 Award in Maintaining Food Safety when Storing, Preparing and Cooking Food (RQF) (No longer available to new learners)	iCan Qualifications	iCQ	Level 2
603/3328/5	ProQual Award in Food Safety Awareness	ProQual Awarding Body	ProQual	Level 2
601/8269/6	GA Award in Food Safety for Catering (RQF)	Gatehouse Awards	GA	Level 2
601/2512/3	TQUK Award in Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Training Qualifications UK Ltd	TQUK	Level 2
610/6737/4	NOCN Level 2 Award in Principles of Food Safety in Catering	NOCN	NOCN	Level 2

4.4 Table 2: Level 3 Ofqual Courses which the MCA accepts

Qualification Number (where applicable)	Qualification Title	Owner Organisation Name	Owner Organisation (short name)	Qualification Level
600/5224/7	BIIAB Award In Supervising Food Safety in Catering	BIIAB	BIIAB	Level 3
603/2396/6	RSPH Award in Supervising Food Safety and Hygiene	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	Level 3
601/2681/4	FAA Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	First Aid Awards Ltd	FAA	Level 3
603/1022/4	QNUK Award in Food Safety Supervision for Catering (RQF)	Qualifications Network	QNUK	Level 3
603/4942/6	Highfield Award in Food Safety for Catering (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 3

603/0968/4	Highfield Award in Supervising Food Safety at Sea (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 3
603/0880/1	QA Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Qualsafe Awards	QA	Level 3
601/2990/6	TQUK Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Training Qualifications UK Ltd	TQUK	Level 3
610/0380/3	LASER Award in Supervising Food Safety	Laser Learning Awards	LASER	Level 3

4.5 **Table 3:** Level 4 Ofqual Courses which the MCA accepts

Qualification Number (where applicable)	Qualification Title	Owner Organisation Name	Owner Organisation (short name)	Qualification Level
603/2407/7	RSPH Award in Managing Food Safety and Hygiene	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	Level 4
500/7327/8	Highfield Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 4

5. Other registers accepted by MCA

5.1 [The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health \(CIEH\)](#)

CIEH	Level
Foundation Certificate in Food Safety	Level 2
Intermediate Certificate in Food Safety	Level 3

5.1.1 CIEH regulate, approve, accredit and monitor their own food safety/ hygiene courses at Levels 2 and 3, under the provisions of the CIEH Charter. These can be found on their website: <https://www.cieh.org/>

5.1.2 The table below lists the qualifications for the CIEH courses that are no longer available and were discontinued on the certification end date shown. The MCA will continue to accept these certificates issued before the certification end date shown below.

Qualification Number	CIEH Qualification Title	Level	Course End Date
600/0473/3	Award in Practical Food Safety for Catering	2	31 March 2017
500/5476/4	Award in Food Safety in Catering	2	23 June 2017
500/5475/2	Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	3	23 June 2017
500/5470/3	Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	4	21 July 2017

5.2 [Royal Environmental Institute of Scotland](#)

5.2.1 The following is a list of accepted courses. For the most up to date list, visit their website; www.rehis.com/community-training

- Elementary Food Hygiene | Equivalent to Level 2

- Intermediate Food Hygiene | Equivalent to Level 3
- Diploma in Advanced Food Hygiene | Equivalent to Level 4

6. Discontinued courses

6.1 Table 4 is a list of courses/ qualifications that are no longer available. The MCA has previously recognised and accepted these certificates as fulfilling the learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in annex 1 of [MSN 1846 \(M\)](#). Applicants holding one of the certificates listed below can use it when applying for their ship's cook certificate of competency, provided it is issued before the certificate end date.

6.2 **Table 4:** Discontinued courses

Qualification Number (where applicable)	Qualification Title	Owner Organisation Name	Owner Organisation (short name)	Course / Certificate End Date
601/1327/3	ABC Level 2 Award In Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	ABC Awards	ABC	31 March 2015
500/6524/5	ASCENTIS Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Ascentis	Ascentis	28 February 2015
500/6530/0	ASCENTIS Level 3 Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Ascentis	Ascentis	28 February 2015
100/6227/0	OCNW Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering	Ascentis	Ascentis	30 September 2011
100/6228/2	OCNW Level 3 Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering	Ascentis	Ascentis	30 September 2012
500/5470/3	CIEH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	21 July 2017
500/5475/2	CIEH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	23 June 2017
500/5476/4	CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	23 June 2017
500/1506/0	CIEH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	30 November 2011
100/6075/3	CIEH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	30 November 2011

600/0473/3	CIEH Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety for Catering (QCF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	31 March 2017
500/5910/5	City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	City and Guilds of London Institute	City & Guilds	31 December 2017
100/6200/2	City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Food Safety for Catering	City and Guilds of London Institute	City & Guilds	31 March 2013
100/6201/4	City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety for Catering	City and Guilds of London Institute	City & Guilds	31 March 2014
600/4326/X	FDQ Level 3 Award In Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	FDQ Limited	FDQ	30 September 2015
601/1058/2	Gateway Qualifications Level 2 Award In Food Safety in Catering	Gateway Qualifications Limited	Gateway Qualifications	31 December 2017
500/8461/6	McDonalds Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	McDonalds	McDonalds	30 April 2017
500/6195/1	NCFE Level 3 Award in Practical Food Safety Supervision for Catering (QCF)	NCFE	NCFE	30 June 2016
500/6210/4	NCFE Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety for Catering (QCF)	NCFE	NCFE	31 December 2015
100/6220/8	NCFE Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering	NCFE	NCFE	31 August 2011
100/6221/X	NCFE Level 3 Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering	NCFE	NCFE	31 August 2012
500/6260/8	Pearson EDI Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	30 September 2016
500/6261/X	Pearson EDI Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	30 September 2016
500/6266/9	Pearson EDI Level 3 Award in Practical Food Safety Supervision for Catering (QCF)	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	31 December 2016
100/5858/8	EDI Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	31 August 2011
100/5859/X	EDI Level 3 Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	30 November 2011
500/1684/2	EDI Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	30 June 2011
600/3290/X	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Pearson Education Ltd	Pearson	30 June 2017
600/3291/1	Pearson BTEC Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Pearson Education Ltd	Pearson	30 June 2017
601/1145/8	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Pearson Education Ltd	Pearson	31 March 2016
600/5460/8	Qualifi Level 2 Award in Food Safety for Food Handlers (VRQ)	Qualifi Ltd	QUALIFI	31 July 2015

600/3918/8	QNUK Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Qualifications Network	QNUK	31 December 2016
600/8920/9	QA Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Qualsafe Awards	QA	05 March 2018
500/1924/7	RIPH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Royal Institute of Public Health	RIPH	30 November 2011
100/1584/X	RIPH Advanced Certificate in Food Safety	Royal Institute of Public Health	RIPH	31 December 2009
500/1637/4	RIPH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Royal Institute of Public Health	RIPH	30 November 2011
500/3768/7	RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 December 2010
500/5480/6	RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 May 2018
500/5483/1	RSPH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 May 2018
500/5484/3	RSPH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 July 2018
100/5848/5	RSPH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 December 2011
100/5823/0	RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	30 November 2010
100/5824/2	RSPH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	30 November 2011
601/8306/8	RSPH Level 2 Foundation Award in Food Hygiene	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 July 2018
601/4956/5	AoFAQ Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Awarding Organisation for Accredited Qualifications	AOFAQ	31 December 2018
601/3364/8	TQUK Level 4 Award in Food Safety Management for Catering (RQF)	Training Qualifications UK Ltd	TQUK	28 February 2019
603/2033/3	Highfield Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	31 December 2019
601/3746/0	BSC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	British Safety Council	BSC	30 April 2020
601/3777/0	BSC Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	British Safety Council	BSC	30 April 2020
600/4678/8	VTCT Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	VTCT	VTCT	31 December 2020
600/1306/0	FAQ Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	Future Awards and Qualifications	FAQ	09 March 2022
600/1367/9	FAQ Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Future Awards and Qualifications	FAQ	09 March 2022
600/1368/0	FAQ Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Future Awards and Qualifications	FAQ	09 March 2022

603/2043/6	Highfield Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (Refresher) (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	31 January 2023
500/8419/7	FDQ Level 2 Award in Food Safety for Catering	FDQ Ltd	FDQ	31 December 2023
600/4327/1	FDQ Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	FDQ Ltd	FDQ	31 December 2024
603/2706/6	SafeCert Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	SafeCert Awards	SafeCert	20 September 2024

7. Contact information

7.1 For information relating to MCA acceptance of certificates for ship's cooks please contact seafarers.registry@mcga.gov.uk

More information

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