



APPLICATIONS – REVALIDATION OF CERTIFICATES AND CONTINUED COMPETENCE

Purpose

This Fact Sheet explains AMSA's procedures for the lodgement of applications by all seafarers for revalidation of Certificates of Competency, Certificates of Proficiency, and Certificates of Recognition. It also explains AMSA's procedures for demonstration of Continued Competence.

Once you have submitted your complete application please allow up to 28 days for your certificate to be issued.

What is Revalidation?

A person holding a seafarer certificate should apply to AMSA to revalidate and renew their certificate before it expires, if it has not been suspended or revoked. The application is made on [Form AMSA 419](#).

It has been longstanding AMSA practice that seafarers may retain their primary certificate when applying for a revalidation so that they may continue their employment unhindered. AMSA does recommend, however, that it is advisable to submit an application for revalidation a few months before the primary certificate expires.

There is an AMSA charge for revalidation of these certificates (see [Fact Sheet STCW 22 Schedule of Charges](#)).

Revalidation of Certificates for seafarers has the following common components, ie:

1. Demonstration of ongoing sea service performing functions and if not, the appropriate revalidation course(s) appropriate to the grade of certificate;
2. Completion of relevant sea survival and firefighting STCW short courses appropriate to the grade of certificate;
3. A valid Certificate of Medical Fitness (except for holders only of a Certificate of Safety Training). See [Fact Sheet STCW 16 Medical Fitness](#); and
4. Security Awareness Training endorsement.

AMSA Requirement for Qualifying Sea Service (QSS)

For the demonstration of qualifying sea service, there are specific requirements for each type of seafarer, See [Fact Sheet STCW 23 Sea Service](#).

If seafarers (including holders of a Certificate of Safety Training) **HAVE** approved seagoing service performing functions appropriate to the certificate they hold, for a period of at least:

- a. 12 months in total during the preceding 5 years before application, or
- b. 3 months in total during the preceding 6 months prior to revalidating,

on completion of the approved seagoing service, the seafarer should:

- obtain a letter(s) from their employer(s) confirming sea service and stating that the seafarer has actively participated in the mandatory abandon ship and fire drills required by SOLAS as well as scheduled drills required by the on board Safety Management System (see [sample template letter](#)). A copy of the letter should be submitted with your application (you should keep the original);
- complete continued competence refresher training for the STCW short courses in fire fighting and sea survival appropriate to their certificate in the previous 5 years (refer to MO 71-73 Schedule 4 as appropriate);
- hold a Security Awareness Training endorsement; and
- hold a valid Certificate of Medical Fitness. See [Fact Sheet STCW 16 Medical Fitness](#).

If seafarers **DO NOT HAVE** approved seagoing service performing functions appropriate to the certificate they hold, for a period of at least:

- a. 12 months in total during the preceding 5 years before application, or
- b. 3 months in total during the preceding 6 months prior to revalidating,

then:

Officers must (see [MO71 \(Deck officers\)](#), Schedule 4 and [MO72 \(Engineer officers\)](#), Schedule 4):

- complete a full approved revalidation course for their grade of certificate within 5 years, before applying to revalidate;
- complete **FULL** STCW short courses in Advanced Fire Fighting and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats;
- hold a Security Awareness Training endorsement; and
- hold a valid Certificate of Medical Fitness.

As an alternative to the above, Masters and Deck and Engineer Officers holding Certificates of Competency who do not satisfy the sea service requirements outlined above may sit an oral examination in operational knowledge and Australian legislation appropriate to the grade of certificate held, conducted by an AMSA examiner, and complete the **FULL** Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and Advanced Fire Fighting STCW short courses.

Note: Certificates of Competency issued to Masters and Deck Officers who have not completed Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) training will not be valid for service on ships fitted with ECDIS equipment (refer to Electronic Chart Display and Information System, see below).

Master and Deck Officers, at the time of revalidation, must also hold a valid Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems (GMDSS) Radio Operator's Certificate or a Certificate of Recognition GMDSS Radio Operator's Certificate. (See [Fact Sheet STCW 07 Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems](#)).

Chief Integrated Ratings must (see [MO73 \(Ratings\)](#), Schedule 4):

- undertake continued competence refresher training for the STCW short courses in Advanced Fire Fighting, and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats;
- hold a Security Awareness Training endorsement; and
- hold a valid Certificate of Medical Fitness.

If no sea service, then Chief Integrated Ratings must complete the **FULL** STCW short courses in Advanced Fire Fighting and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats.

Ratings must (see [MO73 \(Ratings\)](#), Schedule 4):

- undertake continued competence refresher training for the STCW short courses in Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (Basic) and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats;
- hold a Security Awareness Training endorsement; and
- hold a valid Certificate of Medical Fitness.

If no sea service, then Ratings must complete the **FULL** STCW short courses in Basic Fire Fighting and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats.

Holders of Certificates of Safety Training must (see [MO73 \(Rating\)](#), Schedule 4):

- undertake STCW short courses in Personal Survival Techniques and Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (Basic); and
- hold a Security Awareness Training endorsement.

If no sea service, then holders of Certificates of Safety Training must complete the **FULL** STCW short courses in Basic Fire Fighting and Personal Survival Techniques.

Note: All continued competence refresher courses are valid for up to 5 years and may be used once for revalidation purposes, as follows:

Continued competence refresher course

Course	Validity
• Personal Survival Techniques	5 years
• Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats	5 years
• Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (Basic)	5 years
• Advanced Fire Fighting	5 years
• Fast Rescue Boats	5 years

For details of AMSA approved training colleges and courses, see Fact Sheet [STCW 28 Training – Australian Registered Training Organisations](#) and Fact Sheet [STCW 29 Training - STCW and non-STCW Short Courses](#).

Note: There is no STCW requirement to revalidate medical training.

Note: For revalidation of a Certificate of Safety Training only AMSA will accept service on facilities operating in a marine environment. Examples of facilities accepted for revalidation of a Certificate of Safety Training are oil rigs, barges, none propelled accommodation barges, accommodation vessels berthed in a port provided the applicant provides evidence that they attended regular drills and emergency exercises. The applicant will still need to provide evidence of 12 months service in the last five years or 3 months service in the last six months.

Why do I have to undertake specific STCW short courses to revalidate my Certificate?

Australia is a party to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), and for this reason AMSA complies with the standards required in STCW A-1/11 concerning the demonstration by all seafarers of **continued professional competence** in safety of life at sea and security.

This is what is commonly known as the demonstration of **Continued Competence**.

Note: AMSA assesses current Certificates for demonstration of Continued Competence at the same time as applications for revalidation of Certificates. Form AMSA419 is used for this purpose.

AMSA uses the requirements set out in the Marine Order 70 series to assess demonstration of Continued Competence. These requirements are consistent with the standards of competence required by the relevant STCW Code. In addition to meeting the following requirements, all seafarers must hold a valid Certificate of Medical Fitness.

1. For **Master and Deck Officers**, Marine Order 71 Schedule 4.3–4.5 requires maintenance of the standard of competence in:

- Security Awareness (STCW Code A–VI/6–1)

For certificates for Master <24 FG, the person must also have maintained competence in:

- Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code A–VI/1-1), and
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code A–VI/1-2).

For certificates other than Master <24m FG, the person must also have maintained competence in:

- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (STCW Code A–VI/2–1, and
- Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code A–VI/3).

In addition, **Masters and Deck Officers** are required to provide evidence of completion of an AMSA approved Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) course.

2. For **Engineer Officers**, Marine Order 72 Schedule 4.3 requires maintenance of the standard of competence in:

- Security Awareness (STCW Code A–VI/6-1), and
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (STCW Code A–VI/2-1), and
- Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code A–V1/3).

3. For **Ratings**, Marine Order 73 Schedule 4 requires maintenance of the standard of competence in:

- Security Awareness (STCW Code A–V1/6-1),
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code A–V1/2), and
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (STCW Code A–V1/2-1).

In addition, **Chief Integrated Ratings** must have maintained competence in Advanced Fire Fighting (STCW Code A–V1/3) rather than STCW Code A–V1/2.

For revalidation of a Certificate of Safety Training, Ratings must have maintained competence in:

- Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code A–V1/1-1),
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code A–V1/2), and
- Security Awareness (STCW Code A–V1/6-1).

Validity Period for First Aid, Medical First Aid, Medical Care certificates issued under STCW

There is no STCW requirement for revalidation of first aid, medical first aid, and medical care certificates issued under STCW. However Maritime Labour Convention 2006, Regulation 4.1, Guideline B4.1 Medical care on board ship and ashore states:

“3. Persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this guideline and any such other seafarers as may be required by the competent authority should undergo, at approximately five-year intervals, refresher courses to enable them to maintain and increase their knowledge and skills and to keep up-to-date with new developments.”

In view of this Guideline, maritime shipping companies should determine whether it is necessary to maintain currency of their certificate.

Australian Certificate of Competency and Proficiency holders living overseas

For Australian Certificate of Competency and Proficiency seafarers living overseas, who wish to revalidate their certificate and who have the appropriate seagoing service performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, AMSA would accept refresher training from an Administration with which AMSA has an agreement.

The appropriate seagoing service should be for:

- a. 12 months in total during the preceding 5 years before application, or
- b. 3 months in total during the preceding 6 months prior to revalidating.

They should:

- obtain a letter(s) from their employer(s) confirming sea service and stating that the seafarer has actively participated in the mandatory abandon ship and fire drills required by SOLAS as well as scheduled drills required by the on board Safety Management System (see sample template letter).

AMSA will also accept a number of STCW short courses, approved by an Administration with which AMSA has an agreement, from Australian Certificate of Competency holders living outside Australia as evidence that the seafarer has either:

- maintained continued competence in sea survival **AND** fire fighting; or
- satisfied the requirements of Security Awareness Training; or
- satisfied the requirements of advanced tanker training (oil, chemical or gas), if applicable; or
- satisfied the requirements of ECDIS.

See table below.

The seafarer needs to:

1. be a resident overseas (i.e. permanently living in a country other than Australia)
2. ensure the country where the course is to be completed is approved by the Flag State Administration which has an agreement with Australia to recognise their certificates under STCW Reg I/10.
3. contact that country's Flag State Administration to obtain information regarding the location of an approved course provider.
4. on completion of the course, obtain a letter from the overseas course provider stating that the course is approved by the administration of that country, and that the seafarer has attended the course. This letter must be submitted with the application.

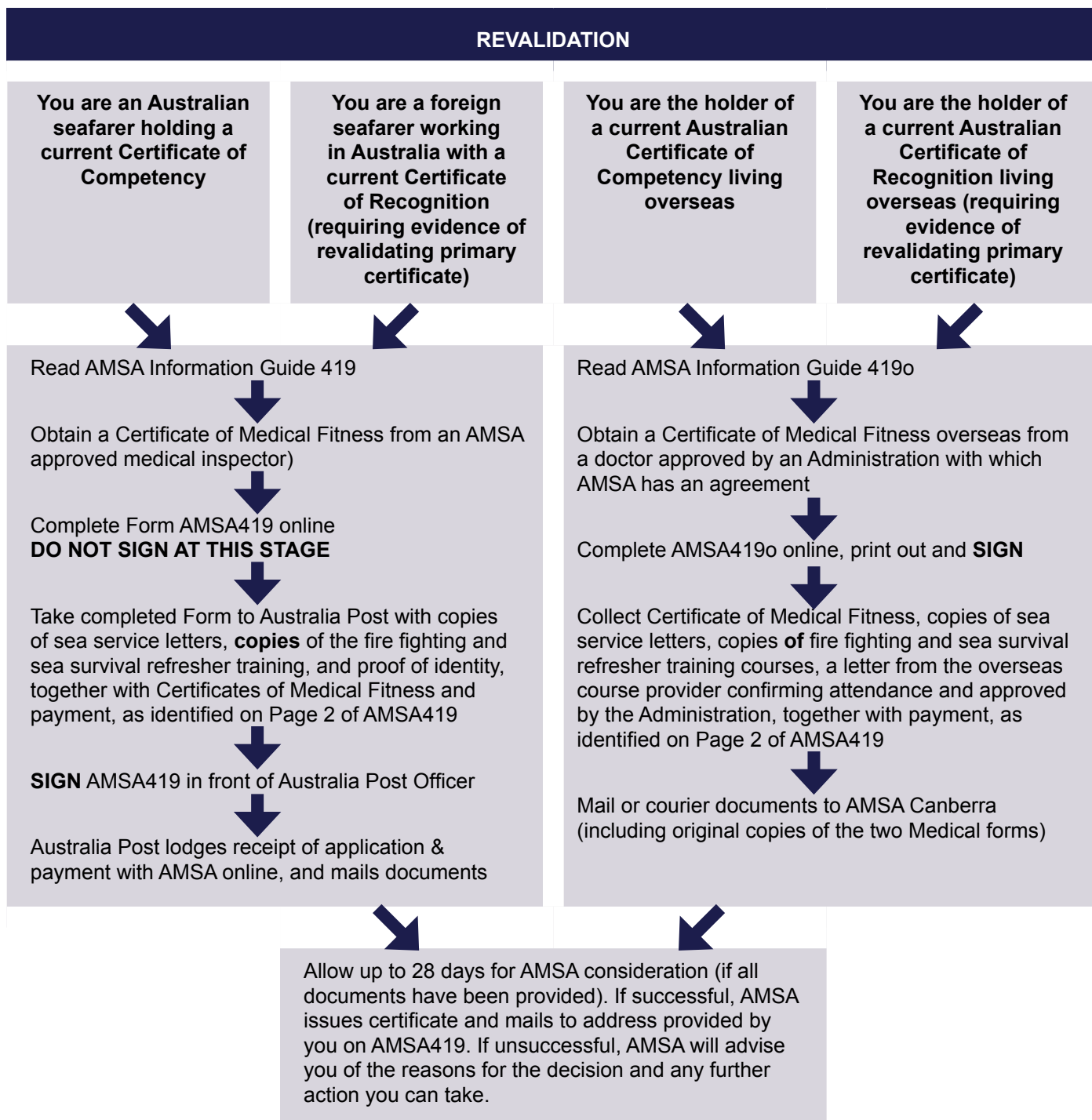
For AMSA to recognise the course(s):

- You must obtain a letter from the overseas course provider that states the course is approved by the administration of that country and you have attended the course.

Certificate type	STCW short courses (approved by an Administration with which AMSA has an agreement)
Certificate of Safety Training	a) Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Section A-VI/1, paragraph 2.1.1.1) and b) Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting (Section A-VI/1, paragraph 2.1.1.2)
Certificate of Proficiency as Rating	a) Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting Section A-VI/1, paragraph 2.1.1.2) and b) Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (Section A-VI/2 paragraphs 1 to 4)
Certificate of Competency – Master, Deck & Engineer Officers	a) Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (Section A-VI/2 paragraphs 1 to 4) and b) Advanced Fire Fighting (Section A-VI/3)
Certificates of Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats	Fast Rescue Boats (Section A-VI/2 paragraphs 7 to 10)
Security Awareness Training endorsement	Security Awareness Training (Section A-VI/6 paragraph 4)
Advanced training for oil tanker endorsement	Advanced training for oil tankers (Section A-V/1-1 paragraph 2)
Advanced training for chemical tanker endorsement	Advanced training for chemical tankers (Section A-V/1-1 paragraph 3)
Advanced training for gas tanker endorsement	Advanced training for gas tanker endorsements (Section A-V/1-2 paragraph 2)
ECDIS	ECDIS (STCW Reg II/1 and II/2 Table A-II/1 and Table A-II/2)

What is the application process for revalidation of my Certificate?

The chart below summarises the requirements and application process for revalidation for Australian seafarers and holders of Australian Certificates of Recognition living overseas.



Note: For Australia Post participating retail outlets, see www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/Fact-Sheets/AMSA1119.pdf

AMSA will not accept liability for documents lost in transit.

Recognition of Equivalent Functions

Apart from the requirements described above, there are specific requirements for the following Certificates:

(a) Deck and Engineer Officer Revalidation – Specified Non-Seagoing Positions

For the following positions of:

1. Technical, engineering, and marine superintendents;
2. Surveyors (i.e. inspectors) appointed under the *Navigation Act 2012* (the Act) or working for a recognised organisation as defined by the Act; and
3. Lecturers in AMSA approved Registered Training Organisations.

The holder of a Certificate of Competency may make a submission to AMSA for full revalidation of either their Deck or Engineer Certificate of Competency. This submission is to include proof of at least two and a half years' service in the five years immediately preceding application, in the type of positions identified above from a non-seagoing sector of the maritime industry.

AMSA will require a statement from the employer organisation, written on company letterhead paper which demonstrates that the person has maintained their professional competence and that he/she will be capable of exercising the full capacity, function levels and limitations applying to their Certificate as required by the STCW Convention. When preparing the statement, reference should be made to the criteria outlining the revalidation course for Deck or Engineer Officers which may be found at [MT10 - Combined Masters and Deck and Engineer Officers Revalidation Course Syllabus](#), (incorporating STCW 2010 Manila Amendment).

In its assessment of the submission for full revalidation, AMSA will consider whether a full or partial revalidation training course is required.

For Deck Officers AMSA will accept a combination of either "Part A" (e.g. shipmaster's medical, legislation, stability and cargo work etc.) **OR** "Part B" (e.g. BRM, passage planning, navigational equipment etc.) of the revalidation course **AND** a written statement on company letterhead paper from their employer covering the other competencies required for the Deck Officers' revalidation course. All revalidation course completions, where applicable, must be completed within 12 months of application.

Deck and Engineer Officers may be required to complete the full Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and Advanced Fire Fighting STCW short courses depending on their employment history.

(b) Master & Deck Officer Revalidation

- **Tugs operating outside port limits** - normal revalidation process applies.

• Harbour Tug

AMSA will accept service of at least two and a half years in the preceding five years immediately preceding application as a Harbour Tug Master/Mate employed in Australian ports **ONLY**, as meeting the qualifying sea service requirement to revalidate their AMSA Deck Certificate of Competency.

Tug Masters and mates will still need to complete continued competence refresher training in survival craft and advance firefighting and also hold a security awareness endorsement. It will be **RESTRICTED** to use within the port limits where the tug operates, unless the applicant holds valid a GMDSS ROC.

• FPSO, FSO and MODU

AMSA will accept service as a Master or Deck Officer on a **FPSO or FSO** for a period of at least 12 months in total within the preceding five years as being equivalent to satisfying the skill set of "Part A" (e.g. shipmaster's medical, legislation, stability and cargo work etc.) of an AMSA approved deck revalidation course.

Such applicants holding an AMSA Deck Certificate of Competency will satisfy the **FULL** revalidation requirements by:

- satisfactorily completing "Part B" (e.g. BRM, passage planning, navigational equipment etc.) of an AMSA approved revalidation course within 12 months of application for revalidation;
- holding either a valid Australian GMDSS Radio Operator's Certificate or GMDSS Certificate of Recognition;
- holding a valid Certificate of Medical Fitness in accordance with Marine Order 9, Health - Medical Fitness;
- completing the Continued Competence refresher training in sea survival and fire-fighting; and
- holding a Security Awareness Training endorsement.

Sea service on disconnectable **FPSOs or MODUs** on voyages, and only when operated in the self-propelled mode, is accepted in full for revalidation.

(c) Engineer Officer Revalidation

1. For revalidation and upgrade of Engineer STCW 78 (issued prior to 1 Feb 2002) certificates, in addition to complying with all general revalidation requirements (i.e. a Certificate of Medical Fitness, refresher training in sea survival and fire fighting and security awareness training), certificate holders must prove completion of the following:
 - a. 12 months' sea service on vessels over 750 kW in the previous 5 years and completion of a practical hands on electrical/electronics course (minimum of 2 days duration) if certificate

college course completed prior to September 1998 and an ISM Code course (minimum of 4 hours duration) if college course completed prior to 1997; or

- b. completion of an AMSA approved STCW 78, as amended, revalidation course within 12 months of application; or
- c. pass a full oral examination relevant to the grade and sub-grade of certificate conducted by an AMSA examiner and complete the STCW short courses, complete the Advanced Fire Fighting, and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Medical First Aid at Sea; or
- d. provide clear evidence of ongoing approved professional development (e.g. completion of a higher grade certificate course) covering at least the revalidation components specified above within the last five years.

Note: Holders of an Engineer Watchkeeper certificate (issued prior to 1 February 2002) must also prove completion of an Advanced Fire Fighting course.

2. Certificate holders should also note the following:
 - a. For revalidation of Engineer Steamship or Motorship Certificates, service on ships with either steam or motor main propulsion machinery is suitable for the revalidation of both types of certificates, regardless of the propulsion power;
 - b. If an applicant for revalidation holds two certificates of differing grade and sub-grade, provided both certificates are presented for revalidation at the same time, only one revalidation fee is payable;
 - c. If an applicant for revalidation holds two certificates of the same grade and differing sub-grade, a combined certificate is to be issued, and only one revalidation fee is payable;
 - d. Service on tugs and Sydney Harbour Ferries of at least 750 kW propulsion power is acceptable for the revalidation of all grades and sub-grades of engineer certificates;
 - e. Based upon the qualifying sea service requirements as defined in Marine Orders 72 (Schedule 4), the service on the following vessels with auxiliary machinery or propulsion power \geq 750kW is acceptable for revalidation purposes:
 - i. commercial yachts;
 - ii. FPSOs & OSIMUs;
 - iii. high speed craft and similar vessels for delivery voyages,
 - iv. time spent on vessel for trials;
 - v. bunker barges and the like;
 - vi. tugs and harbour ferries.

Note: For Master and Deck Engineer Officers revalidation, all applicants must hold:

1. a valid Certificate of Medical Fitness; and
2. a Security Awareness Training endorsement.

(d) Pilots – Port and Coastal Continued Competence and Revalidation

- a. **PORT PILOTS RESTRICTED TO AN AUSTRALIAN PORT - for Port Pilots serving in AUSTRALIAN PORTS ONLY**, who have at least 2½ years' service in the 5 years immediately preceding their application for revalidation, AMSA will accept that service as meeting the qualifying sea service requirement to revalidate their AMSA Deck Certificate of Competency **BUT RESTRICTED** to use within a 12 mile radius to seaward of the port limits where they are a licenced pilot.

The supporting letter confirming 2½ years pilotage service in the past 5 years, which is to be provided by the pilot's employer, should also highlight the safety training (such as man over board drills) that the pilot participated in during this period.

Such applicants will be required to complete the AMSA approved two day continued competence refresher course for sea survival and fire fighting in accordance with the 2010 Manila amendments of the STCW Convention.

The Port Pilot will NOT be required to hold either a valid Australian GMDSS Radio Operator's Certificate or Australian GMDSS Certificate of Recognition.

A Port Pilot may have such a restriction removed at any time by revalidating their certificate in FULL by satisfying the full revalidation and continued competence requirements in accordance with paragraph (b) below

Note 1

All Port Pilots applying for a certificate restricted to an Australian port must hold a:

1. Valid Certificate of Medical Fitness in accordance with Marine Order 9 (Health – medical fitness), and
2. Security Awareness Training endorsement.

Note 2

This option does **NOT** apply to holders of a Certificate of Recognition or Restricted Certificate of Recognition.

- b. **FULL REVALIDATION (i.e. no restrictions)- for Port and Coastal Pilots serving in Australian ports or employed in the compulsory pilotage areas of the Torres Strait and Great Barrier Reef**, who have at least two 2½ service in the 5 years immediately preceding their application for revalidation (or, on a case by case basis AMSA may consider a combination of pilot service and qualifying sea service in the preceding 5 years), AMSA will accept that service as meeting the competencies of “Part B” (e.g. BRM, passage planning, navigational equipment etc.) of an AMSA approved revalidation course.

To be eligible for FULL revalidation of their AMSA Deck Certificate of Competency, such applicants will be required to satisfy the following:

OPTION 1

- i. within 5 years of application for revalidation, complete “Part A” (e.g. shipmasters medical, legislation, stability and cargo work, etc.) of an AMSA approved deck revalidation course, and
- ii. to satisfy continued competence requirements of the 2010 Manilla amendments of the STCW Convention complete within the preceding 5 years the FULL Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Recue Boats AND Advanced Fire Fighting STCW short courses,

or

OPTION 2

- i. within 5 years of application for revalidation an AMSA approved Advanced Pilots’ Development course including appropriate deck revalidation course components, and
- ii. to satisfy continued competence requirements of the 2010 Manilla amendments of the STCW Convention complete within the preceding 5 years the FULL Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Recue Boats AND Advanced Fire Fighting STCW short courses,

and

for both Options 1 and 2 hold either a valid Australian GMDSS Radio Operator’s Certificate or Australian GMDSS Certificate of Recognition.

Note: All applicants for Pilot revalidation must hold a:

- 1. valid Certificate of Medical Fitness in accordance with Marine Order 9 (Health – medical fitness); and
- 2. Security Awareness Training endorsement.

Note: Pilots – Port and Coastal - While it is not mandatory for Pilots to complete Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) training for service on ships fitted with Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) equipment (see below), AMSA strongly recommends that they do so.

Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS)

Masters or Deck Officers in charge of navigational watches serving on ships fitted with SOLAS-compliant ECDIS equipment are required to complete ECDIS training.

The training consists of two parts:

- (i) an AMSA-approved generic ECDIS training course that satisfies the requirements of STCW Reg II/1 and II/2 Table A-II/1 and Table A-II/2. Upon satisfactory completion, the applicant will be issued with a Certificate of Proficiency as ECDIS trained; and
- (ii) familiarisation training as outlined in [Marine Notice 2016/08, Guidance on ECDIS for ships calling at Australian ports.](#)

Note:

- Certificates of Competency issued to Masters and Deck Officers who have not completed training outlined above, will not be valid for service on ships fitted with ECDIS equipment.
- It should be noted that a Certificate of Proficiency as ECDIS trained is issued in perpetuity. There is no need for refreshment or revalidation of this training if the seafarer meets the related familiarization requirements.

AMSA will also accept an ECDIS certificate issued by on administration with which AMSA has an agreement, from Australian Certificate of Competency holders living outside Australia.

They should:

- obtain a letter from the overseas course provider that this course is approved by the Administration of that country and that this person has attended the course.