



Marine Notice 2013/02

Validity and Revalidation of Certificates

Purpose

The purpose of this Marine Notice is to draw the attention of ship operators, masters, officers, ratings and marine pilots to changes to the validity and revalidation of Certificates of Competency, Certificates of Proficiency as Rating and Certificates of Safety Training that are required by the Manila amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW).

Background

Changes to STCW introduced by the 2010 Manila amendments, require seafarers to complete additional requirements to maintain the validity of their Certificates of Competency, Certificates of Proficiency as Rating and Certificates of Safety Training beyond 31 December 2016. If the holder of one of these certificates does not take action to revalidate their certificate as outlined in this Marine Notice, it will not be valid after 31 December 2016 and therefore cannot be used after this date to serve on a vessel.

This means that **all certificates, including those issued in perpetuity**, if not revalidated, will expire on 1 January 2017. It should also be noted that all certificate holders will be required to satisfy revalidation requirements every five (5) years, to maintain the validity of their certificate.

New Requirements

1. ALL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS – Certificates of Competency, Certificates of Proficiency as Rating and Certificates of Safety Training

Holders of a Certificate of Competency, Certificate of Proficiency as Rating or Certificate of Safety Training must hold a Security Awareness endorsement.

Until 1 January 2014, seafarers who have approved qualifying sea service of at least 6 months between 31 December 2008 and 31 December 2011 may apply to AMSA for the

endorsement. Those that do not satisfy the sea service requirements, are required to complete an AMSA approved Security Awareness Training course at an AMSA approved training provider.

It should be noted that after a seafarer obtains a Security Awareness Training endorsement from AMSA, there is no need for refreshment or revalidation of this training if the seafarer meets the security-related familiarization requirements of STCW regulation VI/1 and participate in the drills and exercises required by the International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code.

2. Certificates of Safety Training

Holders of Certificates of Safety Training (COST), in addition to section 1 above, will also be required to demonstrate continued competence in the two STCW short courses, Personal Survival Techniques and Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting as follows:

Either

(a) (i) Seafarers with qualifying sea service in the previous five (5) years should obtain a letter from the ship operator(s) 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;

and

(a) (ii) Have completed shore based training at an AMSA approved college in additional mandatory sea survival and fire fighting as required by STCW. This refresher training will include relevant competencies from the STCW short courses, Personal Survival Techniques and Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting.

or

(b) Seafarers with no qualifying sea service in the preceding five (5) years will be required to complete the **FULL** AMSA approved STCW short course in Personal Survival Techniques and Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting.

3. Certificate of Proficiency as Rating

Holders of Certificates of Proficiency as Rating (Integrated Rating, Able Seaman, Deck Rating or Engine Room Rating) in addition to section 1, above, will also be required to demonstrate continued competence in the two STCW short courses, Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting and Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats, as follows:

Either

(a) (i) A Seafarer with qualifying sea service in the previous five (5) years should obtain a letter from the ship operator(s) 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;

and

(a) (ii) Has completed shore based training at an AMSA approved college in additional mandatory sea survival and fire fighting as required by STCW. This refresher training will include relevant competencies from the STCW short courses, Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting and Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats.

or

(b) A Seafarer with no qualifying sea service in the preceding five (5) years will be required to complete the **FULL** AMSA approved STCW short course in Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting and Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats.

4. Certificate of Proficiency as Chief Integrated Rating

Holders of Certificates of Proficiency as Chief Integrated Rating, in addition to section 1 above, will also be required to demonstrate continued competence in the two STCW short courses, Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and Advanced Fire Fighting, as follows:

Either

(a) (i) A Seafarer with qualifying sea service in the previous five (5) years should obtain a letter from the ship operator(s) 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;

and

(a) (ii) Has completed shore based training at an AMSA approved college in additional mandatory sea survival and fire fighting as required by STCW. This refresher training will include relevant competencies from the STCW short courses, Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and Advanced Fire Fighting.

or

(b) Seafarers with no qualifying sea service in the preceding five (5) years will be required to complete the **FULL** AMSA approved STCW short course in Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and Advanced Fire Fighting.

5. Certificate of Competency – Masters and Deck & Engineer Officers

Holders of Certificates of Competency, in addition to section 1 above, will be required to:

- (i) satisfy qualifying sea service requirements; and
- (ii) demonstrate continued competence in the two STCW short courses, Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and Advanced Fire as follows:

Either

- (a) (i) Masters and Deck and Engineer Officers with qualifying sea service in the previous five (5) years, (i.e. 12 months in the preceding 5 years, or 3 months in the previous 6 months immediately preceding application) should obtain a letter from the vessel operator(s) stating:
 - (A) the name, IMO number and particulars of the vessel;
 - (B) the rank served on board;
 - (C) the dates served on board the vessel;
 - (D) that they actively managed and 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; and
 - (E) for Masters and Deck Officers only, that the ship was fitted with a full GMDSS station and

that they operated the equipment on a regular basis;

and

(a) (ii) Have completed shore based training at an AMSA approved college in additional mandatory sea survival and fire fighting as required by STCW. This refresher training will include relevant competencies from the STCW short courses, Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and Advanced Fire Fighting.

or

(b) Masters and Deck and Engineer Officers with no qualifying sea service in the preceding five (5) years will be required to complete at an AMSA approved college an AMSA approved revalidation course of the required discipline, which includes the **FULL** Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and Advanced Fire Fighting courses.

6. Certificates of Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats

Holders of Certificates of Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats will be required to demonstrate continued competence in the STCW short course Fast Rescue Boats as follows:

Either

(a) (i) A Seafarer with qualifying sea service in the previous five (5) years should obtain a letter from the ship operator(s) stating that the seafarer has actively participated in fast rescue boat training exercises while on board a vessel;

and

(a) (ii) Have completed shore based training at an AMSA approved college in additional mandatory fast rescue boat training as required by STCW. This refresher training will include relevant competencies from the STCW short course, Fast Rescue Boats.

or

(b) Seafarers with no qualifying sea service in the preceding five (5) years will be required to complete the **FULL** AMSA approved STCW short course in Fast Rescue Boats.

7. Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS)

Masters and Deck Officers in charge of navigational watches serving on ships fitted with SOLAS-compliant ECDIS equipment are required to complete ECDIS training. The training is to consist of two parts:

(a) (i) an AMSA-approved generic ECDIS training course that meets the requirements of IMO Model Course 1.27 and conforms to the relevant STCW requirements. Upon satisfactory completion, the applicant will be issued with a Certificate of Proficiency;

and

(a) (ii) familiarisation training as outlined in Marine Notice 11/2012 *Guidance on ECDIS for ships calling at Australian ports*.

Certificates of Competency issued to Masters and Deck Officers who have not completed training outlined in section 7(a)(i), will not be valid for service on ships fitted with ECDIS.

Approved courses

Details of all AMSA approved STCW short courses, including revalidation courses, and college contact details, may be found at: www.amsa.gov.au/Marine_Qualifications/marine_qualifications.asp

NOTE: Due to the anticipated high demand and limited availability of all of the above courses AMSA recommends that seafarers undertake the necessary training at the earliest opportunity to revalidate their certificate before 31 December 2016.

John Young
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