



MINIMUM REQUIRMENTS FOR SEAFARERS

An overview of minimum entry requirements for seafarers to work on board at sea

An overview for Seafarers

Seafarers are required to hold specialist maritime certification to work at sea. We have provided a Support Guide below outlining the role of each rank on board and the minimum entry requirements.

UK qualified Seafarers serving onboard ship must, as from 01/01/17, have documentary evidence of either having completed the STCW training course or updated their STCW training within the last 5 years.

If you are employed or engaged in any capacity onboard a ship with designated safety or pollution-prevention duties, before being assigned to any shipboard tasks you will be required to:

Successfully complete those elements of MCA-approved basic training appropriate to your duties and functions. The 4 elements of basic training are:

- Personal Survival Techniques (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-1);
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-2);
- Elementary First Aid (STCW Code – Table A-VI/1-3);
- Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (STCW Code - Table A-VI/1-4).

Information relating to CEC's, Discharge Books and other helpful guides can be found on the [Maritime & Coastguard Agency \(MCA\) website](#).

For more comprehensive information on certification please [click here](#) to view the latest from the MCA.

Masters / Captains / Deck Officers

Master Mariners and Deck Officers are responsible for the navigation of the ship, the loading/discharge of cargo, voyage planning, radio communication, environmental issues, health and safety issues, administration duties and the control/safety of the crew and passengers.

Masters, also known as Captains, are in overall command of the ship and are responsible for the safety, efficiency, and commercial feasibility of the ship. Their duties are navigational at sea, whilst in ports they are responsible for cargo operations. Working under the Master is the Chief Officer (Chief Mate), Second Officer (2nd Mate), Third Officer (3rd Mate) and Trainee Deck Cadet Officer.

Certification Requirements

All must be valid, including those that previously had no expiry date:

- Certificate of Competency or Certificate of Equivalent Competency – specified to rank and flag of vessel
- GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress Safety System)
- ENG1 or equivalent Medical
- Basic Training
- STCW Personal Survival Techniques
- STCW Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities
- STCW Elementary First Aid
- STCW Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting
- Proficiency in Security Awareness
- Proficiency in Designated Security Duties (Designated Security Duties training is now increasingly required by certain companies)
- Advanced Training
- Proficiency in Medical First Aid or Proficiency in Medical Care
- Proficiency in Advanced Fire Fighting
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (PSC & RB) other than Fast Rescue Boats
- Radar and ARPA Simulator Training – Management Level
- Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS)

It is becoming almost universally necessary that evidence of ECDIS Training be provided, either by means of a separate Training Certificate or by a Certificate of Competency issued after 01/01/2017 which does not include a “no ECDIS” endorsement.

Engineering Officers

Marine Engineers ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the ship’s mechanical and electrical equipment on-board, including carrying out repairs, inspections and maintenance programmes of propulsion systems, refrigeration machinery, deck machinery and passenger systems. They also manage power, fuelling and distributions systems.

The Chief Engineering Officer is in charge of the engineering department and is responsible for working of all equipment on-board be it electrical, mechanical, pneumatic or hydraulic. They supervise the work of the engine room and are assisted by a team of engineers including the Second Engineering Officer, Third Engineer, Junior Engineer, and Trainee Engineering Officer/Cadet.

Certification Requirements

All must be valid, including those that previously had no expiry date.

- Certificate of Competency or Certificate of Equivalent Competency – specified to rank and flag of vessel
- ENG1 or equivalent Medical

Basic Training

Version 1 (January 2023)

- STCW Personal Survival Techniques
- STCW Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities
- STCW Elementary First Aid
- STCW Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting
- Proficiency in Security Awareness
- Proficiency in Designated Security Duties (Designated Security Duties training is now increasingly required by certain companies)

Advanced Training

- Proficiency in Medical First Aid
- Proficiency in Advanced Fire Fighting
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (PSC & RB) other than Fast Rescue Boats

It is becoming increasingly necessary that evidence of High Voltage Training be provided, either by means of a separate Training Certificate or by a Certificate of Competency issued after 01/01/2017 which does not include a “no High Voltage” endorsement.

Electro-Technical Officer / ETO

Electro-Technical Officers (ETOs) are responsible for the maintenance and testing of all electrical equipment on-board ships, including engine room, bridge systems, refrigeration, and passenger areas. ETO’s play a particularly important role when working on cruise ships where they are required to manage all electrical equipment of the ship and passenger areas.

Certification Requirements

All must be valid including those that previously had no expiry date.

- Certificate of Competency Electro Technical Officer (From 2017 it is essential for all ETO’s to hold an ETO CoC – please review the MCA website for further information)
- ENG1 or equivalent Medical

Basic Training

- STCW Personal Survival Techniques
- STCW Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities
- STCW Elementary First Aid
- STCW Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting
- Proficiency in Security Awareness
- Proficiency in Designated Security Duties (Designated Security Duties training is now increasingly required by certain companies)

Advanced Training

- Proficiency in Medical First Aid
- Proficiency in Advanced Fire Fighting
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (PSC & RB) other than Fast Rescue Boats

It is becoming increasingly necessary that Electro-Technical Officers hold also High Voltage Training.

Deck Rating / Able Seaman AB / Efficient Deckhand EDH

An Able Seaman (AB) or Efficient Deck Hand (EDH) work as an unlicensed member of the deck department. Deck ratings are responsible for cleaning, sweeping, chipping of rust, polishing, etc. They help in loading and unloading of cargo and in port they assist in the mooring of the ship as well as taking a watch at sea. They are also members of the emergency team, lifesaving, damage control, and safety equipment.

Certification Requirements

All must be valid including those that previously had no expiry date.

- Efficient Deck Hand (EDH)
- Able Seaman certificate
- Navigational Watch Rating Certificate
- ENG1 or equivalent Medical

Basic Training

- STCW Personal Survival Techniques
- STCW Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities
- STCW Elementary First Aid
- STCW Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (PSC & RB) other than Fast Rescue Boats
- Proficiency in Security Awareness
- Proficiency in Designated Security Duties (Designated Security Duties training is now increasingly required by certain companies)

Engine Rating / Motormen / Fitter / GP1

Motormen are responsible for day to day cleaning, repair and routine maintenance of the engine room on-board the ship.

Certification Requirements

All must be valid including those that previously had no expiry date.

- Certificate of Proficiency Able Seafarer (Engine Room)
- Certificate of Proficiency Watch Rating (Engine Room)
- Certificate of Proficiency Electro Technical Rating (Engine Room)
- ENG1 or equivalent Medical

Basic Training

- STCW Personal Survival Techniques
- STCW Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities
- STCW Elementary First Aid
- STCW Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (PSC & RB) other than Fast Rescue Boats
- Proficiency in Security Awareness

- Proficiency in Designated Security Duties (Designated Security Duties training is now increasingly required by certain companies)
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