



South African Maritime Safety Authority

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Marine Notice No. 23 of 2012

Watchkeeping certificate requirements for Cadets on accelerated training programs and the difference between a cadet and an assistant watchkeeper.

TO SHIP OPERATORS, SEAFARERS, MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Summary

This marine notice lists the watchkeeping certificate requirements for cadets on accelerated training programs and the difference between a cadet and an assistant watchkeeper as specified in the *Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations 1999*.

There appears to be confusion with the requirements for watchkeeping certificates that are necessary for assessing the sea service of cadets on accelerated training programs. Cadets are submitting watchkeeping certificates for their first ship. There are also “company” watchkeeping certificates that state that the requirement for sea service watchkeeping certificates is only three months. This is not correct.

The total sea service required for the Officer of the Watch certificate of competence on accelerated training is twelve months and watchkeeping certificates should only be issued in the following circumstances:

- 1 Watchkeeping certificates should be submitted for the **last six months** of the cadet’s sea service before applying for a level three examination. These should preferably be the SAMSAR watchkeeping form but generics with similar information may be accepted. This could include the watchkeeping certificates found in the back of some Training Record Books.
- 2 A cadet serving on a ship is not necessarily an assistant watchkeeper. This is determined by the function that the cadet is performing. To be an assistant watchkeeper the cadet must be on a regular watch assisting a certificated officer in charge of that watch.
- 3 Confusion might arise on UMS ships and in this event an engineer cadet shall be on duty with a certificated duty engineer watchkeeper. This means that the cadet should assist on all call-outs and functions performed by the duty engineer officer.
- 4 A cadet on day-work only is not an assistant watchkeeper.

Any queries in this regard should be addressed to Chief Examiner or the Senior Engineer Examiner.

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