



# South African Maritime Safety Authority

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Date: 13 March 2013

## Marine Notice No. 9 of 2013

### The transitional arrangements with respect to Ordinary Seafarer Deck/Engine Able Seafarer Deck and Able Seafarer Engine

TO SAMSA EXAMINERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING PROVIDERS, SHIP OPERATORS AND OWNERS AND SEAFARERS

#### *Summary*

SAMSA hereby presents preliminary notice of the revised provisions relating to the qualification and certification of Ratings forming part of a Navigational/ Engineering watch and Able Seafarer Deck and Engine. These provisions take effect from 1 January 2012.

#### **1. Background.**

The rules governing the competence of “Able Seamen” have been transferred from the ILO to the IMO and STCW 2010 includes new Competence Tables for “Able Seafarer Deck” and the newly introduced grade “Able Seafarer Engine”

In terms of Regulation II/4, II/5, III/4 and III/5 of the STCW Convention 1978 as amended, *Ratings forming part of a Watch and Able Seafarers* shall be duly certificated.

SAMSA has opted to name *Ratings forming part of a Watch* “Ordinary Seafarer Deck” and “Ordinary Seafarer Engine”.

All existing STCW '95 Certificates of Qualification as Ordinary Seaman, Wiper, Able Seaman or Oiler, shall be replaced with a *Certificate of Proficiency* as

- Ordinary Seafarer Deck
- Ordinary Seafarer Engine
- Able Seafarer Deck or

Able Seafarer Engine, respectively **before 1 January 2017**.

#### **2. Transitional arrangements.**

**After 1 July 2013**, existing holders of Certificates of Qualification as AB or Oiler shall apply for the equivalent *Certificate of Proficiency* which shall be issued under the following conditions:

- Applicants shall be not less than 18 years of age.
- Applicants shall provide proof of having served a minimum of 12 months in the past 36 months in the capacity being applied for.
- Applicants shall provide documentary evidence of having received the required training and being found competent in
  - Personal safety and social responsibility
  - Personal survival techniques
  - Fire prevention and fire fighting
  - Medical first aid
  - Survival craft and rescue boats
  - Security for persons with designated security duties (Applies after 1 Jan 2014)

- Documentary evidence of a SAMSA Eye test (applies also to Able/Ordinary Seafarer Engine applicants) and a Medical fitness examination by a SAMSA approved medical practitioner.
- If the sea service requirement stipulated above is not fulfilled, applicants for Able Seafarer Deck/Engine may in lieu, make application for a level 3 assessment. If found competent the CoP is issued and if found Not Yet Competent, the candidate may complete an up-grading course covering the competences not covered in the original Able Seaman (Modules 1, 4, 5 & 6 of Cargo Handling and Stores.) or Oiler course and re-apply.
- All new applications for Able Seafarer Deck/Engine, shall complete the up-grade course unless it can be shown that the training course followed meets the STCW 2010 amended provisions.

**After 1 July 2013**, all courses offered by Maritime Education and Training Institutions toward the qualification Able Seafarer (Deck or Engine), shall meet fully the amended provisions in accordance with the 2010 STCW '78 as amended, Convention and Code.

**Ordinary Seaman and Wiper** qualifications shall be exchanged for "Ordinary seafarer deck or engine" before **1 January 2017** when revalidating Certificates of Proficiency for ancillary courses.

### **3. Procedure after 1 January 2017**

The first issue of a Certificate of Proficiency to a seafarer will contain separate documents detailing issue and expiry dates of each of the emergency, occupational safety, security, medical first aid and survival function courses.

The *next* issue of the CoP must be harmonized with ancillaries and only a single CoP will be issued, implying that ALL the requirements for the issue of the CoP have been met. This CoP will have an expiry date and from then on, a revalidation process will be required every five years. It is to be noted that the CoP Able seafarer is not required to be revalidated, only the associated CoPs for ancillary courses and other documentary evidence.

**13 March 2013**

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