

South African Maritime Safety Authority



Marine Notice No. 10 of 2004

Conditional exemption for masters of NPA harbour tugs engaged on voyages between ports in South Africa

TO ALL PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, HARBOUR MASTERS AND MASTERS OF NPA HARBOUR TUGS

Summary

This Marine Notice establishes the conditions and procedure for granting an exemption to masters of NPA harbour tugs engaged on voyages between ports in South Africa. The exemption relates to the requirement of the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning) Regulations, 1999, for the master to hold the Master (Coastal) certificate of competency.

1. Introduction

Harbour tugs belonging to the National Ports Authority (NPA) are classed as a Class VIII harbour tug engaged on occasional voyages between ports in South Africa. These vessels are issued with two Minimum Safe Manning Documents, one for port operations and the other for near-coastal voyages. From time to time logistical reasons require NPA to move tugs between ports. This notice deals with the certification requirements for the master on these between-port voyages.

2. Minimum competency requirements for master

The majority of masters currently manning the tugs hold the Master (Port Operation) certificate of competency. For between-port voyages the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning) Regulations, 1999, require the master to hold a Master (Coastal) certificate of competency. Careful consideration has been given to the qualification requirements for the master of a harbour tug on a near-coastal voyage. A comparison was made between the academic modules for the certificates of competency as **Deck Officer and Master (Port Operations)** and the certificate of competency as **Master (Coastal)**.

The following modules were identified:

ENS	module 5 and 6;
B&L	module 5;
Power	module 1 and 2.

Only ENS modules 5 and 6 are considered relevant for the master of a non-trading vessel on an occasional near-coastal voyage.

3. Sea service requirements

Experiential service is an essential part of the certificate of competency system and no deviation from such service can be considered. A minimum of **two years** sea/harbour service is required before an exemption can be considered.

4. Conditional exemption

The master of an NPA harbour tug engaged on a voyage between ports in South Africa may be exempted, in terms of this notice, from the requirement to hold the Master (Coastal) certificate of competency, provided he/she:

- holds a valid **Deck Officer** (STCW '95) certificate;
- holds the **Master (Port Operations)** certificate;
- has completed at least two years sea/harbour service, whilst holding the certificate as Master Port Operations;
- holds a valid GMDSS General Operators certificate; and
- has successfully completed, at an accredited training institution, modules 5 and 6 of the Electronic Navigation Systems (ENS) syllabus.

Or

- holds a SA Navy bridge watchkeeping certificate;
- holds a pass from an accredited training institution at level T2(S2);
- holds the **Master (Port Operations)** certificate;
- has completed at least two years sea/harbour service, whilst holding the Master Port Operations certificate;
- holds a valid GMDSS General Operators certificate; and
- has successfully completed, at an accredited training institution, modules 5 and 6 of the Electronic Navigation Systems (ENS) syllabus.

This exemption applies only to NPA tugs on non-trading, non-operational voyages between ports in South Africa. It does not apply to voyages to foreign ports. The exemption is valid from the date of issue for a period not exceeding 5 years.

5. Control

Application for the exemption, accompanied by the relevant documentation, is to be made to the local Principal Officer by the harbour master at the relevant port. If the application is successful, the Principal Officer will issue, in the name of the master, an exemption certificate in the form set out in the Annex. The master is to retain the original. The Principal Officer is to forward copies to the harbour master and the Registrar of Seafarers and is to retain a copy for record keeping.

6. Charge

The fee to be raised for the issue or renewal of the exemption is equivalent to the charge for the issue of the Master (Coastal) certificate of competency.

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ANNEX

South African Maritime Safety Authority

Conditional exemption for the Master of a National Ports Authority harbour tug engaged on voyages between ports in the Republic from the requirement to hold the certificate of competency as Master (Coastal) as required under section 73 of the Merchant Shipping Act 57 of 1951

In terms of section 85 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1951

Any harbour tug belonging to the National Ports Authority

is hereby granted permission to proceed to sea on a voyage between ports in the Republic without having on board, as master, a person holding the certificate of competency as Master (Coastal), provided the person named below is appointed and serves as master of the tug for the voyage.

Surname:		
First names:		
Nationality:		
Certificate	No.	Date of issue
Deck Officer		
SA Navy Bridge Watchkeeping		
Master (Port Operations)		
GMDSS		
ENS modules 5 & 6		

This certificate is valid until.....

Issued at this day of

(Official stamp)

.....
Proper Officer