



Marine Notice No. 15 of 2005

STCW'95: Procedure, guidance and exemptions for the training and certification of officers in the deck and engineering departments

TO SAMSA EXAMINERS, MASTERS AND SEAMEN, SHIPOWNERS AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Marine Notice No. 35 of 2002 is cancelled

Summary

This marine notice summarises the assessment procedure for deck and engineer officers and explains how a candidate may apply in special cases where there is doubt about his/her eligibility for an assessment leading to the issue of a certificate of competency. It also grants a qualified exemption from certain regulatory requirements, after special consideration by the senior examiner (engineer) for candidates who apply for the level 3 assessment as engineer officer (STCW Reg III/1).

Certificates endorsed *Port Operations* are "non-STCW" qualifications and are not dealt with in this notice.

1 The regulatory framework

How to apply in special cases

Where there is doubt about the sufficiency of a candidate's qualifying service, the candidate may submit his or her case, accompanied by the relevant certificates, discharges, testimonials, training record, watchkeeping certificates and such other documents as may be required, for special consideration by an examiner.

Deck officer

A candidate for the certificate of competency as deck officer must be at least 18 years of age and must have:

- (a) (i) completed at least 36 months approved sea service on ships of 500 GT or more on unlimited voyages; or
- (ii) if the candidate has a grade 12 or equivalent pass with mathematics and physics as subjects:
 - (aa) completed at least 12 months service contemplated in subparagraph (i); and
 - (bb) successfully completed approved on-board accelerated training;

- (b) performed bridge watchkeeping duties under the supervision of a deck officer for the last 6 months of the required sea service;
- (c) passed a theoretical examination at an accredited institution and have successfully completed approved training; and
- (d) been assessed at levels 1, 2 and 3 or, if the candidate has not undergone on-board accelerated training, at levels 1 and 3.

Engineer Officer

A candidate for the certificate of competency as engineer officer must be at least 18 years of age and must have:

- (a) completed at least 6 months approved sea service as assistant engineer officer on ships of 750 kW propulsion power or more under the supervision of an engineer officer;
- (b) passed a theoretical examination at an accredited institution and have successfully completed approved training consisting either:
 - (i) of an approved cadetship, of at least 30 months, consisting of:
 - (aa) practical workshop training;
 - (bb) theoretical education; and
 - (cc) at least six months approved sea service; or
 - (ii) of an approved trade as an artisan in an engineering discipline; and
- (c) been assessed at level 1, 2 and 3

2 Interpretation

To avoid doubt, the following terms and expressions are explained:

"Examiner" means a senior examiner (deck or engineer). SAMSA may, for the purpose of the regulations, designate one or more examiners as senior deck or engineer examiners.

"Approved" means approved or accredited by SAMSA.

Approved **sea service** means service on a ship, other than one that navigates exclusively in inland waters or in a port operations area, that is engaged in ordinary trading (i.e. commercial operations). Sea service in non-trading ships must satisfy regulation 56 of the *Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations, 1999*, and may be approved at the discretion of the senior examiner. Please consult your nearest SAMSA marine office.

Approved **training** means training at a SAMSA accredited training institution, or training consisting either of a cadetship or a trade as an artisan in an engineering discipline, approved at the discretion of the senior engineer examiner. Shipowners wishing to be accredited to conduct a cadetship training programmes are requested to contact the relevant senior examiner for a detailed list of requirements for accreditation.

"Accelerated training" means an approved programme of intensive training that is designed to reduce the period of qualifying service. Shipowners wishing to be accredited to conduct accelerated

training programmes are requested to contact the relevant senior examiner for a detailed list of requirements for accreditation.

3 Guidance

The **On-board Training Record Book** for the deck or engineering cadet must be SAMSA approved; this includes the on-board training record book issued by the International Shipping Federation.

Assessment procedure

- Every candidate for the issue of a certificate of competency as deck or engineer officer must be assessed at one or more of the following levels:
 - Level 1; this assessment is carried out during qualifying service on a ship and involves the practical demonstration that the required level of competency has been reached or during training at an accredited institution, and must be carried out aboard ship by one or more designated ship's officers and ashore by one or more assessors.
 - Level 2; this assessment is carried out during qualifying service on a ship or during training at an accredited training institution, and must be carried out by an assessor.
 - Level 3; this assessment is carried out by an examiner and an assessor when a candidate presents himself or herself for oral examination.
- All units of competency that are to be assessed at level 1 or 2 must be indicated in the training record book issued to the candidate.
- Only an assessor may sign off a unit of competency in the candidate's training record book when the candidate is considered to be ready for the next level of assessment (if any) and has successfully demonstrated competency in the unit as specified in the Code for South African Maritime Qualifications (the Code).

Assessors

Every person who, whether on or off a ship, conducts in-service assessment of a candidate for the purposes of certification must:

- have an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of the competency to be assessed;
- have proof of being qualified in the activities for which the assessment is being made;
- have proof of having received appropriate guidance in assessment methods and practices; and
- have gained appropriate experience.

A comprehensive 2-day Assessor course is accredited and it is strongly recommended that assessors attend this course.

4 Exemptions

Eligibility requirements for engineer officer (engineer cadet)

A candidate for the certificate of competency as engineer officer may be exempted from having to complete an approved cadetship or approved trade as an artisan in an engineering discipline, if:

- the candidate is at least 18 years of age;
- the candidate has completed at least 18 months approved sea service, of which at least 6 months must have been served as assistant engineer officer on ships of 750 kW propulsion power or more under the supervision of an engineer officer;

- the candidate has completed the ISF on-board training record book for engineer cadets, has passed the approved theoretical education in accordance with the Code and has completed approved practical workshop training;
- the candidate has completed the ancillary courses as laid down by the *Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations, 1999*;
- the candidate has passed an approved simulator training course on engine room watchkeeping; and
- the candidate has been assessed at level 2 and 3.

Eligibility requirements for engineer officer (marine motorman higher grade)

A candidate who is the holder of a marine motorman higher grade certificate of competency may be granted an engineer officer certificate of competency if:

- the candidate has passed approved theoretical education in accordance with the Code;
- the candidate has successfully completed the ancillary courses required by the *Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations, 1999*;
- the candidate has completed at least 3 months approved sea service as an assistant engineer officer on vessels of 750 kW propulsion power or more, other than fishing and port operations vessels, under the supervision of an engineer officer; and
- the candidate has been assessed at level 2 and 3.

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