



SOUTH AFRICAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY
MARINE NOTICE NO 9 OF 2021

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ISSUE DATE	25 March 2021	EXPIRY DATE	31 December 2021	REFERENCE	SM6/5/2/1
COVID-19: FISHING VESSEL PERSONNEL ASSESSMENT EXCEPTION					

REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SHIP AGENTS, PORT AUTHORITIES, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, SEAFARERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

<u>Affected Marine Notices</u>			
<i>Cancelled or superseded</i>		<i>Read in conjunction with:</i>	16 of 2017
SUMMARY			
To provide for the conduct of temporary relief of written examinations for Fishermen and Motormen Certificates.			

Introduction

1. The Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013, as amended (the Regulations), requires that all persons applying for certification as set out there in shall have undergone education and training as set out in the SAMSA Code.
2. The Regulations indicated that these requirements be met within two years of their coming into effect, i.e. no later than 23 July 2015.
3. SAMSA gave a general exemption to the fishing industry by way of extensions to allow seafarers who were not able to complete their Level 3 Assessment (Orals) - and the associated written examinations - to continue to be assessed at SAMSA. Such extensions were valid until 15 October 2018.
4. SAMSA noted that while there was no Accredited Training available at the time of the extensions, institutions have since applied and been accredited for such training (see Marine Notice 1 of 2021). Seafarers are encouraged to undergo the same Accredited Training.

Exception for Written and Oral Assessments

5. Taking into account the toll that COVID-19 took on local industries, and the difficulties faced by Fishing Vessel Personnel (FVP) in accessing Accredited courses prior to and during the pandemic, industry organisations requested that SAMSA consider allowing specific candidates special permission to be assessed under the system in force prior to 23 July 2015.
6. SAMSA has taken consideration of this request and has as such, granted an exception for eligible FVP to apply for their assessment, both written and oral, directly with SAMSA for a period of 9 months, effective from 01 April 2021 to 31 December 2021.
7. The exception above applies with the following conditions:
 - 7.1. Only FVP who had commenced their training (sea service or pre-sea training) prior to 1 January 2016, are eligible to be assessed under the exception stated above.
 - 7.2. Candidates will have no more than 3 attempts to complete each part of the assessments, i.e. three attempts at written assessment and another three for Level 3 Assessment (oral examination).
 - 7.3. Those found not yet competent by the 3rd written or oral assessment - must complete the required training at an Accredited Training Institution.
 - 7.4. Candidates who do not complete their assessments within the specified time period will not be eligible for further assessments.

Procedure

8. A request to be assessed under this exception shall be conducted using the forms appropriate to the related Certificate of Competency (COC), and in addition to all other requirements, must be accompanied by a letter from the employer attesting to when the applicant commenced training, supported by verifiable sea service records.
9. All applications for assessment under this exception shall be lodged with the relevant Port Office on or before 30 November 2021.
10. The applications for assessments under this exception shall be done under the following offices:
 - 10.1. Cape Town
 - 10.2. Port Elizabeth
 - 10.3. Saldanha Bay

Fees

11. Applications for assessment under this exception will be charged the following fees:
 - 11.1. Level 3 Assessment (Oral) – as per applicable Charges for the Certificates.
 - 11.2. Level 2 Assessment (Written) – a standard fee of R 1 053 is payable for each assessment or set of assessment, in addition to charges for the Level 3 Assessment.

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