

# MGN 8 (M) (Amendment)

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## Certificates of Competency - Education and Training Schemes.

Notice to all Owners, Engineer Officers, Trainee Engineers and those concerned with Maritime Training

*This notice should be read with MGN 8, MGN 93 and MGN 278.*

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### Summary

The amendments to MGN 8 are:

- Replacement of section 10.1 to give clarification of the training requirements for Engineer Officer candidates not following an approved Merchant Navy Training Board (**MNTB**) training programme;
- Updated information on the Index to Parts of the training and certification series of guidance notes;
- Updated list of Maritime and Coastguard Agency (**MCA**) Marine Office contact details.

To train for a MCA Engineer Officer of the Watch (**EOOW**) Certificate of Competency (**CoC**) a candidate must either:

- follow a MNTB approved training scheme; or
- apply for a "Letter of Initial Assessment" from the MCA.

Under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping 1978 as amended (**STCW 95**) all applicants for EOOW CoC must complete a minimum of 30 months training approved by the MCA.

### 1. Introduction/ Background

1.1 The training and certification series of guidance notes is currently under review. MGN 8 'Certificates of Competency – Education and Training Schemes' and MGN 93 'Certificates of Competency – Engine Department' will be revised and updated. They are being redrafted alongside other parts of the series to enhance consistency and clarity. The process including consultation will take some time so in the interim this Amendment is to bring important clarification about entry to EOOW CoC and also to update the information on the Index to Parts and MCA Marine Office contact details.

1.2 **Index to Parts:** Under the review the part numbers and some titles previously published will change. During this transitional period the Index to Parts will not be published in MSNs or MGNs but will be made available via the Agency website.

1.3 **Marine Office Contact Details:** A revision of Annex 1 is attached.

## 2. Replacement text for section 10.1 of MGN 8

2.1 The following is to clarify the training requirements for those wishing to gain entry to EOOW CoC but who are not following a MNTB approved training programme.

2.2 The following text should be read in place of the text shown in section 10.1 of MGN 8.

### 10.0 ENGINEER OFFICER CERTIFICATES

#### 10.1 Officer in Charge of an Engineering Watch – OOW (STCW 95 Reg. III/1)

10.1.1 Engineer officer candidates who are not following a MNTB approved training programme are required to have completed one of the following forms of initial training in the UK:

**shore-based training in engineering craft practice:** following a recognised traditional apprenticeship or Modern Apprenticeship in engineering or other scheme involving three years craft training (including UK armed services training) to the satisfaction of the MCA; or

**engineer graduate:** having satisfactorily completed a full time course of study to at least the standard of the EdExcel (BTEC) or Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Higher National Diploma (HND) in engineering; or

**Royal Navy:** commissioned officers who have specialised in marine engineering, Marine Engineering Artificers, Marine Engineering Mechanics and certain Marine Engineering Mechanics, on active service or retired; or

**experienced seafarer programme:** details of which can be found in MGN 278 - Experienced seafarer to Engineer Officer of the Watch.

10.1.2 Prior to commencing engineer officer training in the merchant navy the above candidates must apply to the Examiner of Engineers in the MCA Seafarer Training and Certification Branch for an assessment of the suitability of their initial training. The reply will be in the form of a **Letter of Initial Assessment** which must be produced by candidates when subsequently applying for an EOOW CoC. Application forms for a Letter of Initial Assessment (MSF 4352) and current fee information are available from our website [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk). The application should be fully completed and sent with the required supporting documentation plus the current fee.

10.1.3 Those whose initial training is not considered suitable must follow a MNTB approved training programme (Officer Training (Foundation Degree), Cadetship or Apprenticeship) of thirty months or more.

10.1.4 Candidates will be required to complete a period of qualifying sea service on ships of 350 kW or more Registered Power. The amount of sea service required will be stated in the Letter of Initial Assessment but will not be less than:

**motor certificate:** six months, of which at least four months must have been spent in watchkeeping or duties associated with the Unmanned Machinery Space (UMS) on the main propelling machinery of motor ships;

**steam certificate:** six months, of which at least four months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the boilers and main propelling machinery of steam ships;

**combined certificate:** eight months, of which at least four months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the main propelling machinery of motor ships and at least four months must have been spent in watchkeeping or UMS duties on the boilers and main propelling machinery of steam ships.

- 10.1.5 Sea service must be recorded/endorsed in the seafarer's discharge book and/or certificate(s) of discharge and be supported by testimonials signed by the Chief Engineer. Testimonials signed by shore staff other than a company superintendent will not be accepted.
- 10.1.6 Sea service performed in ships of the Royal Navy will be assessed as if it had been performed in merchant ships.
- 10.1.7 Candidates will also be required to follow an approved programme, either Vocational Qualification (**VQ**) route or Non-VQ route, of education and training on board ship and ashore which includes:
- knowledge, understanding and proficiencies listed in the STCW 95 Code;
  - ancillary training and other requirements listed in MGN 93 'Certificates of Competency – Engine Department'.
- 10.1.8 During the sea service period a candidate will have to complete **one** of the following which must be completed under the guidance of a MCA approved training establishment:
- If following the **VQ route** - National Vocational Qualification/Scottish Vocational Qualification (**NVQ/SVQ**) Level 3 in Merchant Vessel Engineering sea phase portfolio; or
  - If following the **non VQ route** - International Shipping Federation (**ISF**) 'On Board Training Record Book for Engineer Cadets'.
- 10.1.9 The academic requirements are as follows:-
- If following the **VQ route** – successful completion of Underpinning Knowledge (**UPK**) for NVQ/SVQ Level 3 in Merchant Vessel Engineering delivered by a MCA approved training provider.
  - If following the **non VQ route** - MCA approved education leading to a pass in the external written examination papers administered by the International Association of Maritime Institutions (**IAMI**), divided into the following academic and professional subjects:
    - General Engineering Science I & II;
    - General Engineering Knowledge;
    - Motor and/or Steam Engineering Knowledge.
- 10.1.10 Oral examination – all candidates must pass the MCA EOOW oral examination. The syllabus can be found in MGN 69 'Conduct of MCA Oral Examinations'.

## More Information

Seafarer Training and Certification Branch  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
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MCA Website Address: [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)

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### **MCA Tyne**

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