
Ship Security Officer Certification: Changes

Notice to all Owners, Masters, Deck and Engineer Officers and Ratings of Merchant Vessels and those concerned with Maritime Training.

This Note replaces MIN 309 and will expire 30 December 2010

Summary

From 01 January 2008 the training requirements for Ships' Security Officers (**SSOs**) came within the remit of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (**STCW Code**).

Following advice from the European Commission holders of SSO certificates issued by Maritime and Coastguard Agency (**MCA**) approved training providers under the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code should have replacement certificates issued under STCW '78, as amended, Regulation VI/5 and STCW Code Section A-VI/5 at the earliest opportunity. No further training is required for the issue of these certificates. .

1. Introduction

1.1 From 01 January 2008 the training of SSOs was brought into the STCW Code through International Maritime Organization (**IMO**) Resolutions:

- MSC.203(81) 'Adoption of amendments of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended' and
- MSC.209(81) 'Adoption of amendments of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code)'.

2. UK SSO training

2.1 Since SSO training was introduced the UK has required that all SSOs on UK-registered vessels take training approved by the MCA. Approved training providers are permitted to issue certificates bearing the words:

'This Certificate is issued under the authority of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, an executive agency of the Department for Transport.'

Note: some certificates may say '*...Department of Transport*'

3. Recognition of existing UK SSO certification

3.1 All MCA-approved SSO courses meet the requirements of competencies stated within STCW Code Chapter A-VI Table A-VI/5 'Specifications of minimum standards of the

proficiency for security officers'. Additional training not needed if the certificate carries the wording given in paragraph 2.1.

4. Replacement SSO certificates in the STCW format

- 4.1 Following advice from the European Union Commission holders of existing MCA approved SSO certificates, issued under the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, should request a STCW format certificate from the issuing training provider at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.2 Replacement certificates should indicate the reissue date.
- 4.3 A record should be kept of any replacement certificates issued.
- 4.4 A nominal charge may be made for the issue of replacement certificates.
- 4.5 There are a few cases where the training provider who issued the certificate is no longer trading. In these cases only, application should be made directly to the MCA's Seafarer Training & Certification Branch for the issue of a replacement certificate. Applicants should submit the original SSO certificate, a passport sized photo, sample signature and a copy of their current passport.

More Information

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