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## **Proficiency in Medical First Aid and Medical Care Certification Requirements**

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

*This notice introduces changes made to the Merchant Navy Training Board guidance on training in medical first aid and medical care aboard ship, and replaces MIN 318.*

*This MIN expires 1 April 2011*

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### **Summary**

This note clarifies who needs STCW Medical First Aid and Medical Care certification, the revised entry criteria for these courses and the need to or otherwise to undertake refresher training.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations 1997 (**the Regulations**) implement in the United Kingdom (**UK**) the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended, (**STCW**) and its associated Code (**STCW Code**).
- 1.2 The training and certification series of guidance sets out the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (**MCA**) practical application of the Regulations, STCW and the STCW Code. The latest 'Index to Parts' of the series is available from the MCA website. The series is under review.
- 1.3 This note clarifies the entry and revalidation requirements for Proficiency in Medical First Aid and Proficiency in Medical Care certification.

### **2. Proficiency in Medical First Aid STCW Reg VI/4, Section A VI/4 paragraph 1 to 3**

- 2.1 MCA approved or recognised training for Proficiency in Medical First Aid is required for seafarers undertaking their first UK Certificate of Competency (STCW Reg. II/1 and III/1) and others who are designated to provide medical first aid on board ship.
- 2.2 Before commencing MCA approved training, trainees must be at least 16 years old. The previously required sea service has been removed. .

2.3 Updating of the Proficiency in Medical First Aid is not currently required under the STCW Code and therefore no refresher training is required for revalidation of Certificates of Competency.

### **3. Proficiency in Medical Care STCW Reg VI/4, Section A VI/4 paragraph 4 to 6**

3.1 MCA approved or recognised training for Proficiency in Medical Care is required for seafarers undertaking their Chief Mate's Certificate of Competency (STCW Reg. II/2) and others who are designated to take charge of medical care on board ship.

3.2 Before commencing MCA approved training trainees must hold a MCA approved or recognised certificate of Proficiency in Medical First Aid. The previously required sea service and need for the Medical First Aid training to have been completed within the last 5 years has been removed.

3.3 Updating of the Proficiency in Medical Care is not currently required under the STCW Code and therefore no refresher training is required for revalidation of Certificates of Competency.

### **4. Service as Master or the person in charge of medical care on UK flagged vessels**

4.1 On EU Member State flagged vessels, in accordance with Council Directive 92/29/EEC, the captain and any worker or workers to whom he [or she] delegates the use of the medical supplies must receive special training updated periodically, at least every five years, taking into account the specific risks and needs connected with the different categories of vessel.

4.2 The MCA has interpreted this for UK flagged Merchant Navy vessels as requiring the Master and any person designated to take charge of medical care to hold a MCA approved or recognised Proficiency in Medical Care Certificate or MCA approved Updated Proficiency in Medical Care Certificate, issued within the preceding five years.

4.3 Medical Care training has nominal guided learning of 35 hours, however, holders of

- MCA approved Proficiency in Medical Care Certificates
- MCA recognised Proficiency in Medical Care Certificates
- MCA approved Updated Proficiency in Medical Care Certificates

may complete MCA approved updated Proficiency in Medical Care training having reduced nominal guided learning of 21 hours.

4.4 Typical progression to and maintenance of Medical Care certification is summarised in the annexed flow diagram.

Training course information is available from any training provider approved by the MCA.  
Other enquiries can be made to

### More Information

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**Flow chart showing typical progress to and maintenance of Proficiency in Medical Care**

