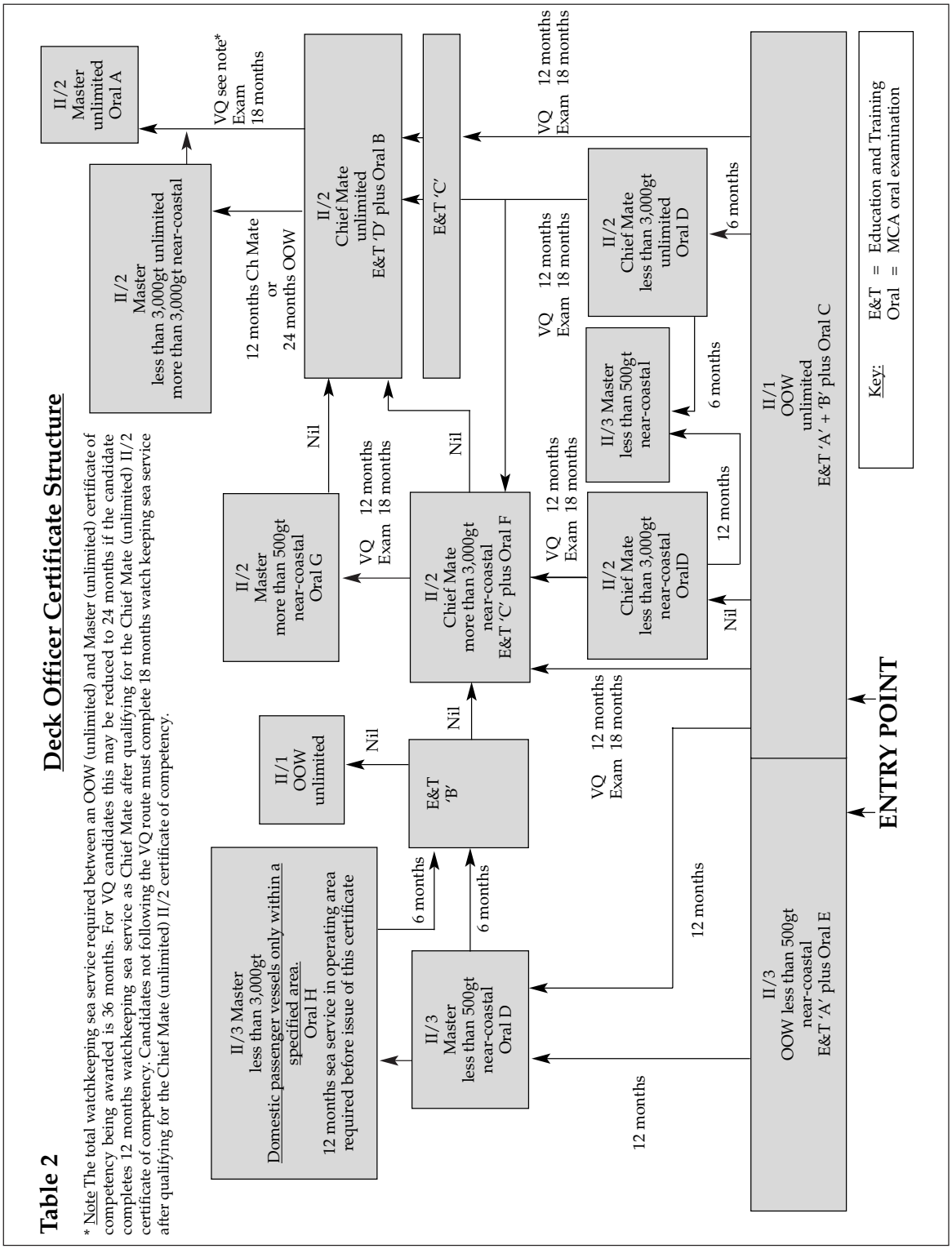
2.3 Under transitional arrangements, additional categories of deck officer certificates may be issued to ease the transition between the existing standards and those of STCW 95 (see Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1692(M) or subsequent amendments).

2.4 Further information on the various requirements for progression to each level of certification is illustrated in Table 2 below.

Table 2



* Note The total watchkeeping sea service required between an OOW (unlimited) and Master (unlimited) certificate of competency being awarded is 36 months. For VQ candidates this may be reduced to 24 months if the candidate completes 12 months watchkeeping sea service as Chief Mate after qualifying for the Chief Mate (unlimited) II/2 certificate of competency. Candidates not following the VQ route must complete 18 months watch keeping sea service after qualifying for the Chief Mate (unlimited) II/2 certificate of competency.