



# South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM6/5/2/1  
SM 14/2/7/1  
SM 9/2/2

Date: 17 March 2017

## Marine Notice No 7 of 2017

### Academic Requirements for Engineering Officers

To All Seafarers, Employers, Examiners, Principal Officers and Education and Training Institutions

#### *Summary*

This Marine Notice highlights the changes in academic requirements as set out in the SAMSAR Code – Matrix and alignment with the STCW Convention Regulation III/2 and the STCW Code Section A-III/2.

#### Introduction and Background

1. Regulation III/2 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, (STCW Convention requires that:

*“Every candidate for certification shall:*

*.1 meet the requirements for certification as an officer in charge of an engineering watch on seagoing ships powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more and have approved seagoing service in that capacity:*

*.1.1 for certification as second engineer officer, have not less than 12 months as qualified engineer officer, and*

*.1.2 for certification as chief engineer officer, have not less than 36 months: however, this period may be reduced to not less than 24 months if not less than 12 months of such seagoing service has been served as second engineer officer; and*

*.2 have completed approved education and training and meet the standard of competence specified in section A-III/2 of the STCW Code.”*

2. In turn, Section A-III/2 of the Seafarers’ Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code states that:

*“...3 Bearing in mind that a second engineer officer shall be in a position to assume the responsibilities of the chief engineer officer at any time, assessment in these subjects shall be designed to test the candidate’s ability to assimilate all available information that affects the safe operation of the ship’s machinery and the protection of the marine environment.*

4 The level of knowledge of the subjects listed in column 2 of table A-III/2 shall be sufficient to enable the candidate to serve in the capacity of chief engineer officer or second engineer officer...”

3. Regulation III/3 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, (STCW Convention requires that:

“1 Every chief engineer officer and second engineer officer on a seagoing ship powered by main propulsion machinery of between 750 kW and 3,000 kW propulsion power shall hold a certificate of competency.

2 Every candidate for certification shall:

.1 meet the requirements for certification as an officer in charge of an engineering watch and:

.1.1 for certification as second engineer officer, have not less than 12 months of approved seagoing service as assistant engineer officer or engineer officer, and

.1.2 for certification as chief engineer officer, have not less than 24 months of approved seagoing service of which not less than 12 months shall be served while qualified to serve as second engineer officer; and

.2 have completed approved education and training and meet the standard of competence specified in section A-III/3 of the STCW Code.

3 Every engineer officer who is qualified to serve as second engineer officer on ships powered by main propulsion machinery of 3,000 kW propulsion power or more, may serve as chief engineer officer on ships powered by main propulsion machinery of less than 3,000 kW propulsion power, provided the certificate is so endorsed.”

4. In turn, Section A-III/2 of the Seafarers’ Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code states that:

“1 Every candidate for certification as chief engineer officer and second engineer officer of seagoing ships powered by main propulsion machinery of between 750 kW and 3,000 kW power shall be required to demonstrate ability to undertake, at management level, the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-III/2.

2 The minimum knowledge, understanding and proficiency required for certification is listed in column 2 of table A-III/2. This incorporates, expands and extends in depth the subjects listed in column 2 of table A-III/1 for officers in charge of an engineering watch in a manned engine-room or designated duty engineers in a periodically unmanned engine-room...

4 The level of knowledge of the subjects listed in column 2 of table A-III/2 may be lowered but shall be sufficient to enable the candidate to serve in the capacity of chief engineer officer or second engineer officer at the range of propulsion power specified in this section.”

## Effect and Meaning

5. As can be seen from the extracts above, the STCW Convention and the STCW Code requires that both the Second Engineer (<3 000 kW) and Chief Engineer (<3 000 kW), Second Engineer and Chief Engineer complete the same “...education and training and meet the standard of competence specified in section A-III/2 of the STCW Code”. SAMSA undertook the review of the SAMSA Code to ensure that its content are compliant with that of the STCW Convention and the STCW Code.
6. The review, initiated in January 2016, resulted in the amendment of the SAMSA Code – Matrix relating to the academic requirements of the Second Engineer (<3 000 kW) and Chief Engineer (<3 000 kW), Second Engineer and Chief Engineer. Accordingly, all engineering Certificates of Competency, other than an Officer in Charge of a watch, directly based on the STCW Convention and their competencies based on the STCW Code, are required to demonstrate the same competencies, albeit with lowered levels of knowledge on the basis of the grade of the certificates.
7. The principle of lowering levels of knowledge is deemed not practicable and complex to implement considering the model of education in South Africa.
8. To this extent, seafarers holding Certificates of Competency as ‘Officer in Charge of Engineering Watch’ seeking to be issued with a Certificate of Competency are required by the STCW Convention to have completed the competencies of the Section A-III/2 of the STCW Code. It is then a requirement of the SAMSA Code, as set out in the Matrix, to ensure that all the competencies have been met.
9. The Matrix of the SAMSA Code (for an updated full matrix please visit the [SAMSA website](#)) have been amended to reflect this requirement. The amendments become effective on 01 July 2017, whereupon all applicants for certification as Second Engineer (<3 000 kW) and Chief Engineer (<3 000 kW), Second Engineer and Chief Engineer shall be compliant with the amended requirements.

## Revalidation of Certificates of Competency

10. Candidates applying for revalidation of certificates of Second Engineer (<3 000 kW) and Second Engineer are not affected by this change. Such certificates may be revalidated without having to complete the academic requirements as set out in the Matrix.

## Transitional arrangements

11. The requirements are applicable to all the applications for certification as Second Engineer (<3 000 kW) and Chief Engineer (<3 000 kW), Second Engineer and Chief Engineer made on or after 01 July 2017.
12. Candidates who have already completed their academic requirements for Certification as Second Engineer (<3 000 kW), and Chief Engineer (<3 000 kW) and Second Engineer prior to 01 July 2017 are encouraged to apply and sit their level 3 assessment before that date.

Candidates who have been found Not Yet Competent or have lodged their applications on or before 01 July 2017, will be granted access to the level 3 assessment, **provided all other requirements are met**, until 31 December 2017

13. Candidates who are currently completing their academic studies for Certification as Second Engineer (<3 000 kW), Chief Engineer (<3 000 kW) and Second Engineer, due to complete in the first semester of 2017, may be permitted to sit their level 3 assessment, **provided all other requirements are met**, until 31 December 2017.
14. Enquiries regarding the contents of this e-mail may be directed to the Senior Examiner – Engine, via e-mail to [exams@samsa.org.za](mailto:exams@samsa.org.za)

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