



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM 6/5/2/1
SM 14/2/7/1
SM 9/2/2

Date: 08 August 2017

Marine Notice No. 16 of 2017

Issue of New Format Certificates for MM and Fishing and Validity of All Seafarers Certificates, other than small Vessel Certificates

TO ALL SEAFARERS, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP OPERATORS, CREWING MANAGERS, EXAMINERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

This Marine Notice Cancels Marine Notice 24 of 2016, 38 of 2016, 28 of 2014, 26 of 2013, 17 of 2013, 15 of 2013 and 23 of 2006

Summary

This Marine Notice highlights the upcoming changes and requirements for all South African seafarers holding Certificates of Competency and/or Proficiency issued in accordance with the regulations repealed by the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013, as amended to revalidate their certificates.

Introduction and Background

1. Regulation 3 of the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013, as amended (the Regulations), states that

“A certificate of competency and proficiency issued in terms of these Regulations, and any equivalent certification, is not valid for sea service or port operations service unless revalidated at intervals not exceeding five years to establish continued professional competence in accordance with subregulation (3)”

2. The period which all existing certificates need to be revalidated is set in regulation 120 of the Regulations. SAMSA has, through Marine Notices, given exemptions to certain parts of the Regulations in order to allow seafarers and employers to prepare themselves for the changes.

Application

3. The contents of this Marine Notice applies to holders of Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency (Qualification) required to be issued in accordance with the Regulations and those issued under the repealed under Regulation 119. This includes the following groups of Certificates:

- 3.1. Marine Motorman certificates
- 3.2. Fisherman Certificates
- 3.3. Port Operations Certificates
- 3.4. Radio Certificates

4. Holder of Certificates previously covered under Marine Notice 24 of 2016 - Applications for new Certificates (Manila Compliant Certificates) may continue applying for their certificates as required to keep their certificates valid for service. Seafarers holding the certificates listed in the annexure shall revalidate at five yearly intervals. Application for revalidation may be made from 6 months before expiry.

Procedure to be followed for Revalidation of current Certificates

5. To be issued with the new format certificates, seafarers holding certificates listed in Point 3 shall apply using appropriate forms found in all SAMSA offices and on the [website](#).
6. Information, other than course certificates, submitted as prima facie evidence of the candidate being complied with the requirements for the new certificates must be in accordance with Paragraph 4 of [GOP-506 – Revalidation of a Certificate of Competency](#)
7. All applications shall be submitted at the nearest SAMSA office, and applications submitted in the Head Office will be assigned to a port office.
8. Candidates applying shall use the latest forms available on the SAMSA [website](#).
9. Majority of the Certificates covered in this Marine Notice are changing their titles in accordance with Regulations. During the application for Revalidation/Conversion, candidate must select the appropriate new title certificate as set out in the equivalency table in Regulation 115 and summarised in the Annexure
10. Where there is confusion on the certificate to be issued, the equivalencies provided in the Regulations take precedent, taking into account paragraph (3) of Regulation 115.

New Applicants for Certificates covered in this Marine Notice

11. SAMSA will continue to accept applications and process, for first issue of the certificates, under the repealed Regulations, until 31 December 2018, except Certificates of Competency which require the candidate to complete their written examinations at SAMSA.
12. The last application for the Certificate of Competency which includes the written examination shall be on 15 October 2018 to allow such to be processed. The last written examination at SAMSA shall be on/or before 25 November 2018
13. Candidates being assessed successfully during this period shall be issued with the equivalent new format interim certificate as well as the final certificate.

Special cases – Radio Operator - Short Range Certificate

14. In accordance with Regulation 114, SAMSA has granted a general exemption to holders of Radio Operator - Short Range Certificate. The exemption is granted as per Annex 1 of the Marine Notice. Holders of these certificates will not be required to renew their certificates at this time.

Fees

15. A full revalidation fee as reflected on the Determination of Charges is payable upon application, as follows;
 - 15.1. For officers – as per relevant revalidation fee.
 - 15.2. For ratings – the same charge as for initial application and issue of certificate.
16. The new certificates will be issued with a full five year validity from the date of issue.

Transitional arrangements

17. Application for revalidation and conversion may be made from 21 August 2017.
18. All certificates to which this Marine Notice applies, other than Radio Certificates, shall remain valid for service until 31 December 2018
19. Certificates for Long Range shall remain valid for a period of five years from the date of issue, i.e. not valid beyond 31 July 2022, except that certificates issued on or before 31 December 2013 shall remain valid until 31 December 2018
20. Enquiries regarding the contents of this Marine Notice may be directed to the Chief Examiner, via e-mail to exams@samsa.org.za

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Annex 1 – General Exemption for Radio Operators - Short Range Certificate

1. All holders of Certificate of Competency for Radio Operator – Short Range Certificate are exempted from the requirements of Regulation 3(1). This exemption does not apply in the following cases:

- a. Where the holder of a certificate also holds a Deck Officer Certificate of Competency for vessels over 25 GT that is required to be revalidated at intervals not exceeding 5 years.
- b. Holders of Skipper's Certificate of Competence issued under the Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessels Safety) Regulations, 2007, as amended,
 - i. Operating commercial vessels Under 25 GT, and if applicable, where their Skippers Certificate are required to be endorsed for Unrestricted Passenger Vessels.
 - ii. When applying for Upgrade of a Small Vessels skipper's licence, a candidate shall hold a valid certificate

2. Persons who are exempted by this exemption may still apply to SAMSA for the new format certificates if they so require for any purpose. All new Certificates issued with effect from 21 August 2017 will carry an expiry date and a person holding such certificate shall keep a copy of this exemption on board their vessel.

Annex 2 – List of Certificates required to be Revalidated and/or Converted

| | Title issued under Repealed Regulations | New Title of Certificate |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | GMDSS radio operators | GMDSS radio operators |
| 2. | Long Range Certificate | Long Range Certificate |
| 3. | Short Range Certificate | Short Range Certificate (see Annex 1) |
| 4. | Master (Port Operations) | Master (Port Operations) |
| 5. | Skipper (Port Operations) | Skipper (<200 GT Port Operations) |
| 6. | Fisherman Grade 2 (with High Seas Command Endorsement) | Skipper fishing (>24 m unlimited Waters) |
| 7. | Fisherman Grade 3 (with High Seas Command Endorsement) | Skipper fishing s (<24 m unlimited Waters) endorsed - Skipper of a fishing vessel of <30 m on unlimited waters |
| 8. | Fisherman Grade 4 (Skipper – with High Seas Command Endorsement) | Skipper fishing (<24 m Unlimited) |
| 9. | Fisherman Grade 2 | Skipper fishing (>24 m Limited Waters) |
| 10. | Fisherman Grade 3 | Skipper fishing (<24 m Limited Waters) endorsed - Skipper of a fishing vessel of <30 m on limited waters |
| 11. | Fisherman Grade 4 (Skipper) | Skipper (<24 m Limited Waters) |
| 12. | Fisherman Grade 4 (Watchkeeper) | Deck Officer fishing (>24 m) |
| 13. | Marine Engineer Officer Class 3 non STCW, service endorsed | Chief Engineer Officer (Fishing) |
| 14. | Marine Engineer Officer Class 3 non STCW, not service endorsed | |
| 15. | Marine Engineer Officer Class 4 non STCW, service endorsed | Chief Engineer Officer (Fishing) <3 000 kW propulsion power |
| 16. | Marine Engineer Officer Class 4 non STCW endorsed, not service endorsed | 2nd Engineer Fishing |
| 17. | Chief Engineer Officer (port operations) | Chief engineer officer (port operations) |
| 18. | Second Engineer Officer (Port Operations) | Chief Engineer Officer <1 500 kW (Port Operations) |
| 19. | Engineer Officer (Port Operations) | Chief Engineer Officer <750 kW (Port Operations) |

| | Title issued under Repealed Regulations | New Title of Certificate |
|-----|--|---|
| 20. | Marine Motorman Higher grade | Marine Motorman Higher Grade |
| 21. | Marine Motorman Grade 1 | Marine Motorman Grade 1 |
| 22. | Marine Motorman Grade 2 | Marine Motorman Grade 2 |
| 23. | Marine Motorman Grade 3 | <u>Discontinued – candidates will be issued with the same certificate to facilitate continued employment</u> |
| 24. | Able Seaman (Fishing) | Able Seafarer Deck (Fishing) |
| 25. | Able seaman (port operations) | Able Seafarer deck (port operations) |
| 26. | Ordinary Seaman (port operations) | Ordinary Seafarer deck |
| 27. | Oiler (Port Operations) | Able Seafarer Engine (port operations) |
| 28. | Wiper (port operations) | Ordinary seafarer engine |
| 29. | Efficient Cook | Efficient Cook |
| 30. | Proficiency in Liferafts | Personal survival techniques |
| 31. | Efficient General Purpose Rating (Port Operations) | General Purpose Rating (Port Operations) |