STCW Updating (Refresher) Training Guide

The IMO has mandated that Officers wishing to revalidate their STCW Certificate of Competency (CoC) after 1st January 2017 will need documentary evidence of completing the following STCW short courses within the previous FIVE years. Without these in-date certificates Officers will not be able to update their CoC.

The courses are:

- Personal Survival Techniques (PST)
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (FP&FF)
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (other than fast rescue boats) (PISC)
- Advanced Fire Fighting (AFF)
- Fast Rescue Boat (FRB)

Although CoC’s will be revalidated before the 1st January 2017 without the updated safety certificates, from this date Port State Control Officers may also wish to see the same documentary evidence about the up-dated status of any Officers certificates.

It is highly recommended that you update safety certificates before revalidating from now.

MaritimeNZ – Approved Updating Training

Some parts of the updating training can be completed on-board a ship. You must have the relevant approved seagoing service and evidence of drills (usually a letter from the shipping company – see attached link for template) or you will be required to complete the FULL STCW approved ancillary course. [https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Publications-and-forms/Commercial-operations/Seafarer-licensing/Sea-Service-Letter-template.docx](https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Publications-and-forms/Commercial-operations/Seafarer-licensing/Sea-Service-Letter-template.docx)

The following courses do not need updating:

- Elementary First Aid
- Medical First Aid
- Security Awareness (SA)
- Designated Security Duties (DSD)
- Ship Security Officer (SSO)
- Proficiency in Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR)

Other specialist training “short courses” such as the Crowd Control (CC), Crisis Management & Human Behaviour (CMHB) and Passenger Ship safety, have no expiry dates. This means that once the seafarer has gained these qualifications then there is no mandatory requirement to repeat the course.

*Always be aware of your own company policies.*

NZMS: February 2016
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Additional Ancillary Technical Training

Deck Officers

To continue to use their CoC on vessels fitted with ECDIS equipment after 31st December 2016 Deck Officers will need to have completed a MaritimeNZ approved course. Without this requirement the following limitation will apply:

“From the 1st January 2017 this certificate is not valid for service on ships fitted with ECDIS”.

Engineering Officers

To continue to use their CoC on vessels fitted with High Voltage (1000V) generating and distributing equipment, after 31st December 2016, Engineering Officers will need to have completed a MaritimeNZ approved course. Without this requirement the following limitation will apply:

“From the 1st January 2017 this certificate is not valid for service on ships fitted with High Voltage (over 1000V) systems”.

Human Element Leadership and Management (HELM) deck & engine officers

There are two levels of HELM (Operational and Management) and they are NOT generic STCW programmes. They are however a required addition to all flag state training programmes. The content of a flag state’s HELM short course will depend upon the overall content of that flag’s current CoC. The short course will be designed to make up any short fall in content of the CoC and therefore may change from flag to flag.

If you are revalidating a current CoC you will not be required to undertake the additional HELM training. Candidates for new CoC and those upgrading to the next level, will be required to undertake the full HELM training. In New Zealand this training is embedded in the Bridge watchkeeping and Navigation Control and Emergency courses. Candidates who do not wish to enrol in the full programme may elect to enrol in the HELM short courses.

GMDSS radio operator

If you are revalidating a current GMDSS certificate you will be required to provide evidence of sea service as follows:

- 12 months radio service in a seagoing ship fully fitted with GMDSS during the five years preceding renewal; or
- 3 months radio service in a seagoing ship fully fitted with GMDSS during the six months immediately before renewal
Basic and Advanced tanker certificates

If you are revalidating a current basic or advanced tanker certificate you will be required to provide evidence of sea service as follows:

- At least 3 months sea service during the previous five years, performing duties appropriate to the tanker endorsement on the type of tanker the endorsement applies to

Proving your sea service

You are responsible for making sure your sea service is documented and verified by your ship’s master or company.

To support your sea service, you must provide at least one of the following documents for each vessel you have served on:

- certificate of sea service (available on MNZ’s website)
- completed seafarer record book
- discharge certificate or discharge book (ensuring that any section on watchkeeping is appropriately signed off).

If it is not included in one of the documents above, you must also provide a reference (on company letterhead), from the ship’s master or your employer. The reference(s) must state the start and end dates of your service and duties while in service. Any references must cover your experience, conduct, sobriety and ability.

Any statutory declarations you have made are not acceptable as proof of your sea service.

Those who cannot provide evidence of sea service will be required to complete the FULL STCW approved ancillary course.