



RAN 12

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE OF AB AND EFFICIENT DECK HAND CERTIFICATES

Most regulations, notices and advice notes are available on The Isle of Man Government web site: www.iomshipregistry.com or by contacting marine.registry@gov.im

GENERAL

- 1.** Certificates of Competency as AB are issued by Isle of Man Ship Registry in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Certificates of Competency as AB) Regulations 1970 (S.I. 1970 No. 294). The 1970 Regulations were applied to the Isle of Man with effect from 1st July 1986 by virtue of the Merchant Shipping (Certificates of Competency as AB) (Application) Order 1986 (G.C. 218/86).
- 2.** No seaman engaged in a Manx ship may be rated as or entered on articles as AB, unless he is the holder of a certificate of competency as AB.
- 3.** A seaman who is granted a certificate should produce his discharge book so that the issue of the certificate may be recorded by the Superintendent of the Mercantile Marine Office.
- 4.** Appendix D gives a list of countries whose certificates of competency as AB are recognised as having the same force as those granted in the Isle of Man.

CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES

- 5.** A certificate of competency as AB can only be awarded to a seaman who proves to the Superintendent that he has:
 - (a)** passed the qualifying examination;
 - (b)** attained the age of eighteen years;

- (c) performed the appropriate sea service as set out in paragraph 14;
- (d) is in possession of a certificate of efficiency as a Lifeboatman or certificate of proficiency in survival craft, (see paragraphs 20 and 21); and
- (e) holds a steering certificate (see paragraphs 22 and 24).

Where all these requirements are satisfied, application for a certificate of competency as AB may be made on the form Exn.50A.

Qualifying Service

6. Subject to the special alternative provisions to which reference is made in paragraph 8, a seaman may apply for examination only after he has served a period at sea of:
 - (a) 12 months in a deck rating; or
 - (b) 18 months in a general purpose rating (i.e. as a GP rating in a ship manned by general purpose or integrated crews); or
 - (c) between 12 months and 18 months, partly in a deck rating and partly in a general purpose rating (i.e. mixed service), such periods to be counted proportionately.
- 7.. A seaman may apply for the issue of an AB certificate after he has served at sea for two years in a deck rating or in a general purpose rating capacity, in addition to an initial period of sea service (as indicated in paragraph (13) of either 12 months in a deck rating capacity or 18 months in a general purpose rating capacity or between 12 months and 18 months mixed service counted proportionately.
8. Not less than 25 per cent of the qualifying service must have been performed in ships (other than fishing boats) of 100 gross tons or more, or in sailing ships of 40 gross tons or more. The remainder of the service may be performed in any type of vessel of 15 gross tons or more, but service in ships of less than 100 gross tons or in sailing ships of less than 40 gross tons is allowed to count at half rate only. (Qualifying service includes service as a deck rating performed in sea-going vessels of the Royal Navy and such service should be counted in the manner described in this paragraph).

Remission of sea service for pre-sea training courses

9. An applicant for the issue of a certificate of competency as AB (under paragraph 5), must have performed, subject to any remission in respect of pre-sea training, qualifying sea service as set out in paragraph 14.
10. If an applicant has attended a course of pre-sea training at one or more of the establishments or institutions listed in Appendix B to this notice, he may count towards the qualifying sea service time so spent at the rate of one month for every four weeks' training satisfactorily completed at such a course but not exceeding in the case of each establishment the number of months specified in Appendix B. Total remission of sea service in subject to an overall maximum of six months.
11. A candidate for the qualifying examination under paragraph 7 or a person who applies for an EDH certificate in accordance with paragraph 26 may count up to a maximum of four weeks remission from the minimum period of qualifying sea service for attendance at a course of pre-sea training at one or more of the establishments or institutions listed in Part I of Appendix B to this notice. This remission will form part of the total remission allowed under paragraph 17.
12. An ex-engine room rating who has attended one of the approved engine room/deck conversion courses at an establishment listed in Appendix C to this notice may count towards the qualifying sea service for the examination time so spent up to a maximum of four weeks. He may also count his service as an engine room rating towards the qualifying service for the examination at the rate of one half of that service up to a maximum of six months, this period of remission to count as equivalent to deck rating service for the purpose of either paragraph 13(a) or 13(c).

Certificates of Proficiency in Survival Craft/Efficiency as Lifeboatman.

13. An applicant for an AB certificate must produce either a lifeboatman's certificate or a certificate of proficiency in survival craft.
14. A seaman should apply for a certificate of proficiency in survival craft to a Marine Office or appropriate training establishment in the United Kingdom. Further particulars may be obtained from U.K. Merchant Shipping Notice M1092.

Steering Certificate

15. A steering certificate is required from candidates for the qualifying examination except those candidates who apply to take the

examination in accordance with the arrangements set out in paragraphs 25 and 27. All candidates must be in possession of such a certificate before an EDH or AB certificate may be issued.

- 16.** This certificate must show that, apart from periods of instruction, the seaman has taken turns at the wheel in steering ships (other than fishing boats) having a tonnage of 100 gross tons or more, or sailing ships having a tonnage of 40 gross tons or more, for periods totalling at least 10 hours. Masters are requested to certify the time spent at the wheel by seamen who will require a steering certificate and to ensure that certificates are issued to them.
- 17.** Supplies of the steering certificate (form Exn. 50G) can be obtained by masters from the Superintendent.

National Sea Training College, Gravesend

- 18.** Boys attending pre-sea training courses at the National Sea Training College at Gravesend may take the qualifying examination at the college before going to sea. Those boys who are successful in the examination will have their discharge books noted to this effect. A certificate will not be issued at this stage. For further details of these pre-sea training courses at Gravesend you should contact that establishment at Denton, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2HR (Tel. 01474 363656).
- 19.** When all the requirements in regard to age, qualifying service and steering experience listed in paragraph 7 have been fulfilled a seaman who has passed the qualifying examination at the Gravesend College before going to sea should make application for the issue of an EDH certificate on a form Exn.50A which is obtainable from any Mercantile Marine Office. The completed form together with the applicant's discharge book should be taken to the Superintendent who, if satisfied that the seaman is eligible, will issue him with a certificate and will endorse his discharge book accordingly

Ex-engine room ratings

- 20.** Ex-engine room ratings who have attended one of the approved engine room/deck conversion courses set out in Appendix C may take the qualifying examination at the end of the course. No certificate will be issued until the requirements in regard to qualifying service and steering experience laid down in paragraph 7 have been fulfilled.
- 21.** Applications for the qualifying examinations should be made on form Exn.50C which is obtainable at any Mercantile Marine Office. The completed form together with the appropriate fee should be taken to

the Superintendent who, if satisfied that the candidate is eligible, will refer him to the nearest examiner for advice as to the arrangements for the examination.

- 22.** When all the requirements listed in paragraph 7 have been fulfilled an ex-engine room rating who has passed the qualifying examination should make application for the issue of an EDH certificate on form Exn.50A which is obtainable from any Mercantile Marine Office. The completed form together with the applicant's discharge book should be taken to the Superintendent who, if satisfied that the seaman is eligible, will issue him with a certificate and will endorse his discharge book accordingly.

Certificates which are lost or destroyed

- 23.** If an AB or EDH is lost or destroyed, the holder may obtain a certified copy of the lost certificate by completing an application form (Exn. 23) And handing it to the Superintendent, paying at the same time the appropriate fee (see paragraph 33). A declaration as to the circumstances in which the certificate was lost must be made by the applicant before the Superintendent. A certified copy of the lost certificate will be issued to the applicant in due course.
- 24.** No fee is charged if an applicant can show that the certificate was lost through shipwreck or fire on board ship.
- 25.** If a certificate is subsequently recovered, it should be returned to the Isle of Man Ship Registry, St George's Court, Upper Church Street, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 1EX.

FEES

Service

Fee

1. For the grant of a certificate of competency, except in cases to which paragraph 3 of this Schedule applies £23.00

2. For a copy of a certificate of competency issued pursuant to regulation 10, except where the loss or destruction of the original certificate was occasioned by the wreck or loss of a ship or by a fire on board ship, in which case no fee shall be payable. £23.00

3. For the grant of a certificate of qualification as efficient deck-hand where the examination was sat at a centre specially approved by the Department. £23.00

APPENDIX B

Remission of sea service for pre-sea training courses (see paragraphs 17 and 18)

	<u>of Remission</u> <u>Service</u>	<u>Maximum Period</u> <u>of Sea</u>
Aberdeen	Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology	6 Months
Anglesey	H.M.S. "Conway" Merchant navy Cadet School	6 Months
Belfast	City or Belfast College of Technology	6 Months
Blyth	Wellesley Nautical School	6 Months
Bristol	Incorporated National Nautical (Portishead) School	6 Months
Buckie	Buckie High School	3 Months
Cardiff	National Sea Training College	3 Months
Cardiff	Reardon Smith Nautical College	6 Months
Dover	Prince of Wales Sea Training School	6 Months
Elgin	Gordonstoun School (Nautical Department)	6 Months
Fleetwood	The Nautical College (Cadet Course)	6 Months
	(Junior Course)	3 Months
Gravesend	National Sea Training School	3 Months
Greenock	Watt Memorial College	6 Months
Hull	Kingston-upon-Hull High School for Nautical Training	6 Months
Hull	Kingston-upon-Hull Nautical College	6 Months
Hull	Trinity House Navigation Schools	6 Months
Leith	Leith Nautical College	6 Months
Leith	Leith Nautical College (TS Dolphin)	3 Months

Liverpool	Riversdale Technical College	6 Months
Liverpool	The Indefatigable and National Sea Training School for Boys	6 Months
London	Merchant Navy College	6 Months
London	London Nautical School	6 Months
Pangbourne	The Nautical College	6 Months
Plymouth	Plymouth College of Technology	6 Months
Southampton	School of Navigation, University of Southampton, Warsash	6 Months
South Shields	South Shields Marine and Technical College	6 Months
South Shields	National Sea Training College	3 Months
Stornoway	Lews Castle College (Cadet Course) (Junior Course)	6 Months 3 Months
Yarmouth IOW	St. Swithin's Nautical School	6 Months

Part 2 - Training Schools

Barrow-in-Furness	Holker County Secondary School	6 Months
Dovercourt	Sir Anthony Deane County Secondary	6 Months
Falmouth	Falmouth Technical College	6 Months
Grimsby	Grimsby College of Further Education	6 Months
Lowestoft	Lowestoft Technical College	6 Months
Morpeth	Amble Country Secondary School	6 Months
Newcastle-on-Tyne	Blakelaw School	6 Months
Sunderland	Hylton Red House Comprehensive School	6 Months
Whitehaven	Kells Secondary School	6 Months

Available only to candidates who produce satisfactory certificates in

respect of attendance at a course of pre-sea training at one of the "Nautical Training Schools" specified in Part 1.

3. Establishments or Institutions

Name	Training Course	Maximum period of Remission of sea service
The Sea Cadet Corps	Cadet Petty Officers	3 Months

APPENDIX C

Approved engine room/deck conversion courses Maximum period of(see paragraph 19) remission of sea service

Liverpool National Sea Training College	4 Weeks
South Shields National Sea Training College	4 Weeks

APPENDIX D

Countries whose certificate of competency as AB have the same force as those granted under these regulations.

Bangladesh	Malta
Barbados	Mauritius
Canada	New Zealand
Ghana	Nigeria
Hong Kong	Trinidad and Tobago
Kiribati	Tuvalu
Republic of Ireland	United Kingdom
	Pakistan (if issued prior to 1.9.73)