



Marine Order 71 – Certificate of Competency Master <500 GT

The following provides a summary of the requirements for a **Master <500GT Certificate of Competency (CoC)**. This certificate is issued under Marine Order 70 (Seafarer certification) 2014 and Marine Order 71 (Master and deck officers) 2014, made under the *Navigation Act 2012*.

What will I be able to do with this certificate? You will be able to perform the duties of:

✓	Master or Chief Mate on ships <500 GT in any operating area
✓	Watchkeeper Deck Officer on ships of any gross tonnage in any operating area
✓	Master and Chief Mate on ships <3000 GT in near-coastal waters
✓	Able Seafarer Deck – deck duties or functions.

How do I get this certificate?

There are two options to obtain a Master <500 GT CoC:

OPTION 1: you will need to:

- Hold any of the following certificates:
 - An unrestricted Master <35m NC CoC, or
 - A Master <24 metres FG CoC, or
 - A Mate <500 GT CoC, or
 - Any certificate AMSA considers equivalent to the above.
- Complete 36 months sea service as an officer in charge of a navigation watch on ships ≥ 24 metres, while holding:
 - A valid certificate from the list above, or
 - An unrestricted Master <24 metres NC Certificate of Competency or
 - Watchkeeper Deck <500 GT (or AMSA equivalent).

Of which:

- At least 12 months served holding either an unrestricted Master <35 metres NC CoC, Mate <500 GT CoC, or AMSA equivalent.
- At least 24 months served on voyages of at least 24 hours duration.

OPTION 2: you will need to:

- Complete 24 months sea service as an officer in charge of a navigation watch on ships ≥ 24 metres, with at least 16 months served on voyages of at least 24 hours duration and at least 12 months served as Chief Mate or Master while holding a Mate <500 GT

CoC (with Chief Mate <3000 GT near-coastal endorsement), or AMSA equivalent.

For both options you will also need to:

- Complete an AMSA approved course of study from an AMSA approved registered training organisation for a **Master <500 GT**.
- Complete the following approved STCW short courses:
 - Basic Safety Training course, which includes Security Awareness training.
 - Advanced Fire Fighting.
 - Medical Care on board ships.
- Hold the following valid certificates:
 - Certificate in Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats.
 - GMDSS Radio Operators Certificate.
 - AMSA Certificate of Medical Fitness.
- Hold an ECDIS endorsement, if serving on an ECDIS equipped ship.
- Pass an AMSA oral examination.

How do I keep this certificate?

To revalidate your certificate you must:

- Hold a valid:
 - AMSA Certificate of Medical Fitness.
 - GMDSS Radio Operators Certificate or GMDSS Certificate of Recognition.

- Have seagoing service performing functions appropriate to the certificate you hold, for a period of at least:

- a) 12 months in total during the preceding 5 years before application, or
- b) 3 months in total during the preceding 6 months prior to revalidating, or
- c) Have completed an approved revalidation course appropriate for your certificate within 5 years before applying to revalidate, or
- d) Have completed an oral exam and approved short courses that AMSA considers equivalent, or
- e) Have performed duties and functions and approved courses that AMSA considers equivalent.

On completion of the seagoing service, you should:

- Provide written evidence of performing radio service in a seagoing ship fully fitted with GMDSS equipment for sea area A3 of at least 12 months in total within the preceding 5 years, or 3 months in total during the preceding 6 months prior to revalidation. This should be written on company letterhead paper and includes the following details:
 - Ship particulars – the name, IMO number, MMSI number, ship type(s), Gross Tonnage.
 - The rank served on board.
 - The dates served on board the ship.
 - That the ship was fitted with a full GMDSS station (sea area A3).
 - That the applicant operated the equipment on a regular basis.
- Or have performed functions relating to the category of GMDSS Certificate held which are considered by AMSA to be at least equivalent to the seagoing service required.
- Complete continued competence training for the STCW short courses in Advanced Fire Fighting and Fire and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Craft other than Fast Rescue Boats in the previous 5 years (refer to MO 71 Schedule 4).

Please note: There are three types of continued competence courses. Please ensure you complete the continued competence for deck / engineer officers and chief integrated ratings.

If you **DO NOT HAVE** at least the specified seagoing service mentioned above, you will be required to complete the Advance Fire Fighting and Proficiency and Survival Craft in full and one of the revalidation options c, d or e shown above.

How to Apply for CoC Initial Issue/Revalidation (select as required)

Lodge an application at Australia Post:

- Complete a CoC application form 419 online or download a pdf version and then complete it.
- Complete all sections of the form.
- Download a pdf version of the form to generate your barcode.
- Print the form.
- Attach copies of all required documents.
- Sign the declaration.
- Submit your application and pay a fee at an AMSA-contracted Australia Post outlet.
- Provide proof of identity when you lodge your application.

AMSA may request reasonable evidence to confirm or verify any of the information provided as part of the application.

Please note:

- *All certificates and training must comply with STCW.*
- *All training courses and training programs must be approved by AMSA.*
- *All sea service must be documented qualifying sea service.*

Commonwealth statutory declaration

A Commonwealth provided template can be used to make a declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*. The original statutory declaration must be posted to AMSA – SCS, GPO BOX 2181, Canberra ACT 2601.

The completed statutory declaration form tells us that you are sending us true copies of the originals or is a written statement which you sign and declare to be true before an authorised witness.

For a copy of this template and full list of persons authorised to witness statutory declarations under the Commonwealth Statutory Declarations Act (1959), see Statutory Declarations Regulations 1992, Schedule 2, a copy of which is available on our website or at the following link: www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2006C00248

More Information

Seafarer Certification Guidance containing additional information on CoC, sea service requirements and task books, can be obtained from the AMSA website at www.amsa.gov.au.

Note: If there is an inconsistency between this document and previously issued documents about the subject matter, this document supersedes information found in previous documents dealing with these matters.

Previous documents found to be in conflict with this document (or parts thereof) will be updated or withdrawn at the earliest opportunity.