

Certificates of Proficiency for Ship Security Officers

This Marine Notice complements Marine Notice 17/2007 of September 2007 and advises seafarers, seafarer representatives, ship owners, Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and other sectors of the maritime industry of amendments to Marine Orders Part 3 – Seagoing Qualifications – that will come into force on 1 January 2008. These amendments will implement STCW Regulation VI/5 in regard to the issue of Certificates of Proficiency as Ship Security Officer (SSO) in Australia.

The promulgation of any requirements for seafarers to hold an SSO certificate in Australia or upon Australian registered ships is the responsibility of the Office of Transport Security (OTS) in the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and is managed under the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003* and its associated Regulations.

AMSA's responsibility is the provision of SSO certificates of proficiency to seafarers in accordance with the standards of STCW 78, as amended, Regulation VI/5.

Issue of Certificate of Proficiency as Ship Security Officer from 1 January 2008

The certification provision in MO 3 (s43) provides that, to be eligible for a certificate of proficiency as a ship security officer, a person must:

(a) have:

- (i) completed approved seagoing service of at least 12 months; or
- (ii) appropriate seagoing service and knowledge of ship operations that the Manager considers

to be equivalent to the service mentioned in subparagraph (i); and

- (b) have completed an approved program of training that complies with paragraphs 1 to 4 of section A-VI/5 of the STCW Code.

Transitional Provisions

Until 1 July 2009, the Manager may issue a certificate of proficiency as a SSO to a person, if the person has:

- (a) during the period commencing on 1 January 2005 and ending at the end of 31 December 2007 - completed approved seagoing service as a ship security officer for at least 6 months in total; or
- (b) before 1 January 2008 - performed security functions considered by the Manager as equivalent to the seagoing service mentioned in paragraph (a); or
- (c) before 1 January 2008 - successfully completed approved training.

Seafarers who are eligible under these provisions should complete the AMSA Form 63 application and send it, together with supporting documentation and a fee of \$93, to:

Ship Operations & Qualifications,
GPO Box 2181,
Canberra, ACT 2600.

RTOs seeking approval to offer the STCW SSO course should also contact Ship Operations & Qualifications at the address above.



Further information may be obtained from the
AMSA website at www.amsa.gov.au

Questions on ship security must be addressed
to the Office of Transport Security at [http://www.
infrastructure.gov.au/transport/security/maritime/
index.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/transport/security/maritime/index.aspx)

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Chief Executive Officer
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Internet address for all current Marine Notices:
<http://www.amsa.gov.au/>