



GUIDANCE NOTICE

National Standard for Commercial Vessels – Certificate of Competency

Master <24m Near Coastal (NC)

Duties authorised by certificate

The holder of this certificate can:

- (a) Command a commercial vessel <24 m long in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);
- (b) Act as Chief Mate or deck watchkeeper on a vessel <35 m long in the EEZ;
- (c) Act as Chief Mate or deck watchkeeper on a vessel <80m long in inshore waters

Sea Service – Master <24 (NC)

While working in a deck or deck and engineering capacity

The applicant must have at least:

- **120 days** of qualifying sea service in the 5 years before the application on commercial vessels ≥ 7.5 m long, and completed an approved task book; or
- **600 days** of qualifying sea service, of which:
 - (a) at least half must be accrued on vessels ≥ 7.5 m long; and
 - (b) at least half must be accrued on commercial vessels; and
 - (c) up to half may be accrued on recreational vessels ≥ 5 m long

Possible Restrictions - Master <24 (NC)

Restricted to command only in sheltered waters:

A certificate will be restricted to command a vessel only in sheltered waters:

- if at least half of sea service required is not seaward of sheltered waters.

Restricted to daylight hours

A certificate will be restricted to daylight hours:

- if the person is colour vision deficient.

Endorsements – Master <24m NC

Near Coastal Certificates of Competency issued prior to 1 July 2013

The holder of an existing certificate of competency issued by a state or territory marine safety agency prior to 1 July 2013 may apply to the National Regulator for the following endorsements provided the conditions are met.

A Master <24m NC certificate holder may be endorsed for operations outside of the limits of the certificate.

Endorsement to 600nm

A current Master <24m NC can be endorsed as a Chief Mate or Deck Watchkeeper of a vessel <35m long operating 600nm from the mainland if the holder satisfies the following conditions:

- The certificate holder was previously endorsed to 600nm; and
- The holder must not enter the EEZ of another country while carrying out navigational duties relevant to the certificate

Qualifying Sea Service and Task Books

Sea Service will be assessed using the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV) Part D, Crew Competencies.

Please note that the applicant must accrue at least half of the qualifying sea service required for the certificate in the 5 years before the application.

For further information on this document and access to additional information on qualifying sea service and task books please refer to the AMSA website www.amsa.gov.au

Final assessment

Candidates are required to undertake a final assessment conducted by a National Regulator approved assessor before being issued a certificate of competency.

Candidates who successfully complete all requirements for an NSCV Part D certificate of competency including the final assessment may request a temporary service permit in the form of a letter to allow them to operate immediately.

The criteria and competencies covered in a final assessment are included in the relevant tables of the 'Skills and Knowledge required for NSCV Certificates of Competency Part D Crew Competencies' document, which can be found on the AMSA website.

Application for Certificate of Competency

If lodging an application in person:

The applicant must complete and provide the information required by the Application for a Certificate of Competency (AMSA form 534).

Completing this form and providing the information required will help the applicant demonstrate he or she meets the eligibility criteria for the issue of the Certificate of Competency (set out below).

If lodging an application by post:

Unless an application by post is from a person who is already known to the National Regulator, the National Regulator may request reasonable evidence to confirm or verify any of the information provided as part of the application. (See also the information below under the heading Certified Copies).

Eligibility Criteria – Master <24 m NC

- Be at least 16 years when the certificate is issued; and
- Provide evidence of sea service accrual in the form of:
 - An application for a Qualifying Sea Service Assessment (AMSA form 560); or any of the following:
 - A declaration in a form acceptable to the National Regulator;
 - An approved sea service log book or task book;
 - A letter, from the operator, owner, master or chief engineer of a vessel detailing the applicant's sea service
 - Self-Declaration of Medical Fitness (AMSA form 558);
 - Eyesight Test Certificate Application (AMSA form 542);
 - Certificate 3 – Master <24 (NC) issued by an AMSA approved training organisation;

- HLT AID003 unit of competency Provide first aid or another certificate that the National Regulator considers equivalent;
- Marine Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency issued by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, or higher qualification, or an equivalent qualification approved by the National Regulator;
- Pay fee/s.

You also will be asked to provide an application for a certificate of competency, proof of identity and two passport-style photographs taken in the previous six months.

Master <24 NC Certificate of Competency Renewal

Master <24 NC Certificate of Competency expires 5 years after it is issued or renewed; or a lesser period determined by the National Regulator.

Renewal requirements

- Application For A Certificate Of Competency (AMSA form 534);
- Self Declaration of Medical Fitness (AMSA form 558);
- HLT AID003 unit of competency Provide first aid or another certificate that the National Regulator considers to be equivalent;
- Pay fee/s

You also will be asked to provide proof of identity and two passport-style photographs taken in the previous six months.

Certified Copies

A certified copy is a copy of an original document (not a copy of a copy) that has been certified as a true and correct copy by a person who is authorised to witness a statutory declaration (see list below).

Certified copies can be obtained by presenting the original document together with a photocopy of that document to an authorised person for them to sight and certify.

Persons who are authorised to witness statutory declarations (under the Commonwealth Statutory Declarations Act 1959) include:

- Accountant (Chartered or Certified)
- Clerk of a Court
- Commissioner for Affidavits
- Commissioner for Declarations
- Dentist
- Justice of the Peace
- Legal Practitioner
- Magistrate
- Medical Practitioners
- Nurse
- Pharmacists
- Police Officer
- Post Office Manager
- Sheriff or Sheriff's Officer
- Teacher
- Veterinary Surgeon

For a 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 at the following link:
www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2006C00248

More Information

Industry Guidance Notices containing more information on certificates of competency, sea service requirements and task books, can be obtained from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority website at www.amsa.gov.au and from state and territory marine safety agencies.

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.