



CONTINUED COMPETENCE – ADDITIONAL MANDATORY SEA SURVIVAL AND FIRE FIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

Purpose

This procedure sets out AMSA's requirements for RTOs delivering appropriate STCW courses which enable seafarers with sea service in the preceding 5 years to demonstrate continued competence ashore in sea survival and fire fighting.

Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW)

The *International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended* (STCW) requires serving seafarers to demonstrate continued competence in certain short course elements to maintain the validity of their certificate. The relevant Sections in the STCW Code permit AMSA to accept on-board training and experience for maintaining some of the competencies as listed in the relevant Table on the following pages.

AMSA Policy

To demonstrate the necessary on-board training and experience, the seafarer is required to obtain a letter from their employer stating that they have participated in training on-board, including mandatory fire and abandon ship drills.

In addition, some of the competencies cannot be completed through on-board training and must be completed ashore at an AMSA approved college. This is in addition to the mandatory qualifying sea service revalidation requirements for Masters and Deck & Engineer Officers.

While the STCW Convention and Code DO NOT specify any qualifying sea service to revalidate a Certificate of Proficiency as Rating (Deck or Engine) or Certificate of Safety Training, the following are the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) requirements which vary for different certificates issued by AMSA. They can be categorised into 3 groups:

1. Certificates of Competency (Master, Deck & Engineer Officers) and Certificates of Proficiency as Chief Integrated Rating;
2. Certificates of Proficiency as Rating (Deck and Engine) excluding Chief Integrated Rating;
3. Certificates of Safety Training.

Masters, and Deck and Engineer Officers who have not met revalidation qualifying sea service requirements in the preceding 5 years will have to meet AMSA approved full revalidation course requirements, which are detailed in a separate information sheet.

Please Note: To revalidate a certificate from 1 January 2014 ALL seafarers are required to satisfy the Security Awareness Training requirements specified in STCW Regulation VI/6 and STCW Code Section A-VI/6 paragraph 4.

The tables on the following pages set out the competence levels and methods for demonstrating competence in each of the above three groups.

1. CERTIFICATE OF SAFETY TRAINING, INCLUDING MARINE COOK, NAVIGATION WATCH RATING AND ENGINE WATCH RATING

1(a) FIRE FIGHTING - (Extract from STCW Code Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting - Table A-VI/1-2)

AMSA anticipates that the nominal hours for the following shore based component of the practical fire fighting training will take at least 5 hours to complete.

Column 1 Competence	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence
Minimise the risk of fire and maintain a state of readiness to respond to emergency situations involving fire	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction OR attendance at an approved course
Fight and extinguish fires	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction OR during attendance at an approved course, including practical demonstration in spaces which provide truly realistic conditions (e.g. simulated shipboard conditions) and, whenever possible and practical, in darkness, of the ability to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. use various types of portable fire extinguishers 2. use of self-contained breathing apparatus (refresher) 3. extinguish small fires, e.g., electrical fires, oil fires, propane fires 4. extinguish extensive fires with water, using jet and spray nozzles 5. extinguish fires with foam, powder or any other suitable chemical agent 6. enter and pass through, with lifeline but without breathing apparatus, a compartment into which high- expansion foam has been injected 7. fight fire in smoke-filled enclosed spaces wearing self-contained breathing apparatus 8. extinguish fire with water fog or any other suitable fire-fighting agent in an accommodation room or simulated engine-room with fire and heavy smoke 9. extinguish oil fire with fog applicator and spray nozzles, dry chemical powder or foam applicators 10. effect a rescue in a smoke-filled space wearing breathing apparatus.

1(b) SEA SURVIVAL (Extract from STCW Code Personal Survival Techniques - Table A-VI/1-1)

AMSA anticipates that the nominal hours for the following shore based component of the practical sea survival training will take at least 3 hours to complete.

Column 1 Competence	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence
Survive at sea in the event of ship abandonment	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction OR during attendance at an approved course OR approved in-service experience and examination, including practical demonstration of competence to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. don a lifejacket 2. don and use an immersion suit 3. safely jump from a height into the water 4. right an inverted liferaft while wearing a lifejacket 5. swim while wearing a lifejacket 6. keep afloat without a lifejacket 7. board a survival craft from the ship and water while wearing a lifejacket 8. take initial actions on boarding survival craft to enhance chance of survival 9. operate survival craft equipment 10. operate location devices, including radio equipment.

2. CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY OF RATING (DECK & ENGINE), EXCLUDING CHIEF INTEGRATED RATING

2(a) FIRE FIGHTING - (Extract from STCW Code Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting - Table A-VI/1-2)

AMSA anticipates that the nominal hours for the following shore based component of the practical fire fighting training will take at least 5 hours to complete.

Column 1 Competence	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence
Minimise the risk of fire and maintain a state of readiness to respond to emergency situations involving fire	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction OR attendance at an approved course.
Fight and extinguish fires	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction OR during attendance at an approved course, including practical demonstration in spaces which provide truly realistic conditions (e.g. simulated shipboard conditions) and, whenever possible and practical, in darkness, of the ability to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. use various types of portable fire extinguishers 2. use of self-contained breathing apparatus (refresher) 3. extinguish small fires, e.g. electrical fires, oil fires, propane fires 4. extinguish extensive fires with water, using jet and spray nozzles 5. extinguish fires with foam, powder or any other suitable chemical agent 6. enter and pass through, with lifeline but without breathing apparatus, a compartment into which high-expansion foam has been injected 7. fight fire in smoke-filled enclosed spaces wearing self-contained breathing apparatus 8. extinguish fire with water fog or any other suitable fire-fighting agent in an accommodation room or simulated engine-room with fire and heavy smoke 9. extinguish oil fire with fog applicator and spray nozzles, dry chemical powder or foam applicators 10. effect a rescue in a smoke-filled space wearing breathing apparatus.

2(b) SEA SURVIVAL - (Extract From STCW Code Personal Survival Techniques - Table A-VI/1-1 and Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boats Table A-VI/2-1)

AMSA anticipates that the nominal hours for the following two shore based components of the practical sea survival training (Tables A-VI/1-1 and A-VI/2-1) will take at least 6 hours to complete. Both components must be included in the Sea Survival course.

Personal Survival Techniques – Table A-VI/1-1

Column 1 Competence	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence
Survive at sea in the event of ship abandonment	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course or approved in-service experience and examination, including practical demonstration of competence to : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. don a lifejacket 2. don and use an immersion suit 3. safely jump from a height into the water 4. right an inverted liferaft while wearing a lifejacket 5. swim while wearing a lifejacket 6. keep afloat without a lifejacket 7. board a survival craft from the ship and water while wearing a lifejacket 8. take initial actions on boarding survival craft to enhance chance of survival 9. operate survival craft equipment 10. operate location devices, including radio equipment.

Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats - Table A-VI/2-1

Column 1 Competence	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence
Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operate off-load and on-load release devices for survival craft** • proper resetting of both off-load and on-load • release devices for survival craft.**
Use locating devices including communication and signalling apparatus and pyrotechnics	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use signalling equipment, including pyrotechnics.

**** Note: The practical training in off-load and on-load release devices must use an AMSA approved off-load and on-load release simulator.**

3. CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY (MASTER, DECK AND ENGINEER OFFICERS) AND CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY AS CHIEF INTEGRATED RATING

3(a) FIRE FIGHTING - (Extract from STCW Code Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting - Table A-VI/1-2 and Advanced Fire Fighting Table A-VI/3)

AMSA anticipates that the nominal hours for the following two shore based component of the practical and theoretical fire fighting training (Tables A-VI/1-2 and VI/3) will take at least 8 hours to complete. Both components must be included in the Firefighting course.

Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting – Table A-VI/1-2

Column 1 Competence	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence
Minimise the risk of fire and maintain a state of readiness to respond to emergency situations involving fire	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction OR attendance at an approved course.
Fight and extinguish fires	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction OR during attendance at an approved course, including practical demonstration in spaces which provide truly realistic conditions (e.g. simulated shipboard conditions) and, whenever possible and practical, in darkness, of the ability to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. use various types of portable fire extinguishers 2. use of self-contained breathing apparatus (refresher) 3. extinguish small fires, e.g. electrical fires, oil fires, propane fires 4. extinguish extensive fires with water, using jet and spray nozzles 5. extinguish fires with foam, powder or any other suitable chemical agent 6. enter and pass through, with lifeline but without breathing apparatus, a compartment into which high- expansion foam has been injected 7. fight fire in smoke-filled enclosed spaces wearing self-contained breathing apparatus 8. extinguish fire with water fog or any other suitable fire-fighting agent in an accommodation room or simulated engine-room with fire and heavy smoke 9. extinguish oil fire with fog applicator and spray nozzles, dry chemical powder or foam applicators 10. effect a rescue in a smoke-filled space wearing breathing apparatus.

Advanced Fire Fighting - Table A-VI/3

Column 1 Competence	Column 2 Knowledge, understanding and proficiency
Control fire-fighting operations aboard ships	<p>Use of water for fire extinguishing, the effects on ship stability, precautions and corrective procedures.</p> <p>Fire fighting involving dangerous goods.</p>
Organize and train fire parties	<p>Preparation of contingency plans.</p> <p>Composition and allocation of personnel to fire parties.</p> <p>Strategies and tactics for control of fires in various parts of the ship.</p>
Inspect and service fire-detection and fire-extinguishing systems and equipment	<p>Fire detection systems; fixed fire-extinguishing systems; portable and mobile fire-extinguishing equipment, including appliances, pumps and rescue, salvage, life-support.</p> <p>Requirements for statutory and classification surveys.</p>
Investigate and compile reports on incidents involving fire	Assessment of cause of incidents involving fire.

3(b) SEA SURVIVAL – Extract from STCW Code Personal Survival Techniques - Table A-VI/1-1 and Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boats Table A-VI/2-1)

AMSA anticipates that the nominal hours for the following two shore based component of the practical sea survival training (Tables A-VI/1-1 and A-VI/2-1) will take at least 6 hours to complete. Both components must be included in the Sea Survival Course.

Personal Survival Techniques – Table A-VI/1-1

Column 1 Competence	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence
Survive at sea in the event of ship abandonment	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction OR during attendance at an approved course OR approved in-service experience and examination, including practical demonstration of competence to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. don a lifejacket 2. don and use an immersion suit 3. safely jump from a height into the water 4. right an inverted liferaft while wearing a lifejacket 5. swim while wearing a lifejacket 6. keep afloat without a lifejacket 7. board a survival craft from the ship and water 8. while wearing a lifejacket 9. take initial actions on boarding survival craft to enhance chance of survival 10. operate survival craft equipment 11. operate location devices, including radio equipment.

Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats - Table A-VI/2-1

Column 1 Competence	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence
Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. operate off-load and on-load release devices for survival craft ** 2. proper resetting of both off-load and on-load release devices for survival craft **
Use locating devices including communication and signalling apparatus and pyrotechnics	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. use signalling equipment, including pyrotechnics.

**** Note: The practical training in off-load and on-load release devices must use an AMSA approved off-load and on-load release simulator.**

4. OTHER NON-MANDATORY CONTINUED COMPETENCE TRAINING FAST RESCUE BOATS - (Extract from STCW Code Fast Rescue Boats - Table A-VI/2-2)

AMSA anticipates that the nominal hours for the following shore based component of the practical fast rescue boat training will take at least 6 hours to complete.

Column 1 Competence	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence
Understand the construction, maintenance, repair and outfitting of fast rescue boats	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical instruction
Take charge of the launching equipment and appliance as commonly fitted, during launching and recovery	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to control safe launching and recovery of a fast rescue boat, with equipment as fitted
Take charge of a fast rescue boat as commonly fitted, during launching and recovery	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to conduct safe launching and recovery of a fast rescue boat, with equipment as fitted
Take charge of a fast rescue boat after launching	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. right a capsized fast rescue boat 2. swim in special equipment 3. recover a casualty from the water and transfer a casualty to a rescue helicopter or to a ship or to a place of safety
Operate a Fast Rescue Boat Engine	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to start and operate a fast rescue boat engine