

AMSA Regulatory Review – Miscellaneous Amendment Order
Marine Order 505 (Certificates of competency — national law) 2022

Who does this Marine Order apply to?

Marine Order 505 (Certificates of competency — national law) 2022 (MO505) applies to:

- a. a person who has or is intending to obtain a certificate of competency, and
- b. organisations conducting or seeking approval to conduct final assessments.

Background

MO505 provides for certificates of competency and sets out standards for the qualifications of the crew and masters on domestic commercial vessels.

In early-to-mid-2027, AMSA will commence issuing digital certificates. Digital certificates will not include a photograph of the seafarer and MO505 requires amendments to accommodate the new format.

The current form of printed certificate with a photograph also needs to be recognised while physical cards remain valid.

What are the key changes?

The proposed amendments are:

- a. Removing prescriptive certificate format requirements from MO505,
- b. Clarifying that the return of revoked certificates only applies to printed certificates, and
- c. Making minor editorial changes to update incorrect or out of date references.

Commencement

The amended Marine Order 505 (2022) is anticipated to come into effect on 1 April 2027.

The table below compares the current Marine Order 505 (2022) and the draft amended Marine Order 505 (2022)

All changes are **yellow** highlighted and deleted text from the current Marine Order is shown as ~~strikethrough~~.

Existing text of <i>Marine Order 505 (Certificates of competency — national law)</i> 2022 issue F2025C00646 compiled on 04 December 2024	New text as modified by Marine Orders Miscellaneous Amendment Order 2027	Notes on changes
Division 2 Certificates of competency		
7 Certificates of competency requirements (5) A person may undertake a duty or perform a function mentioned in Schedule 1 for a Coxswain Grade 3 NC certificate of competency if the person: (a) is at least 16 years old; and (b) is familiar enough with the English language that the person can fully understand directions and documents relating to the performance of the duties and functions mentioned; and (c) has a current <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i> that shows the person meets the <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i>; and (d) other than a person who works only in a marina or mooring area — has a current first aid certificate equivalent to at least HLTAID011 <i>Provide first aid</i>; and (e) meets any one of the eligibility requirements for the certificate mentioned in Schedule 3; and (f) keeps evidence of meeting the eligibility requirement on board any vessel on which the person is undertaking the duty or performing the function; and (g) undertakes the duty or performs the function only in daylight hours in the case of a person with colour deficient vision. <i>Note 1</i> A person may undertake the duties or perform the functions of a Cox 3 in accordance with this provision or, if the person satisfies the criteria in section 9 for the issue of a Cox 3 certificate, apply for the issue of that certificate.	7 Certificates of competency requirements (5) A person may undertake a duty or perform a function mentioned in Schedule 1 for a Coxswain Grade 3 NC certificate of competency if the person: (a) is at least 16 years old; and (b) is familiar enough with the English language that the person can fully understand directions and documents relating to the performance of the duties and functions mentioned; and (c) has a current <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i> that shows the person meets the <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i>; and (d) other than a person who works only in a marina or mooring area — has a current first aid certificate equivalent to at least HLTAID011 <i>Provide first aid</i>; and (e) meets any one of the eligibility requirements for the certificate mentioned in Schedule 3; and (f) keeps evidence of meeting the eligibility requirement on board any vessel on which the person is undertaking the duty or performing the function; and (g) undertakes the duty or performs the function only in daylight hours in the case of a person with colour deficient vision. <i>Note 1</i> A person may undertake the duties or perform the functions of a Cox 3 in accordance with this provision or, if the person satisfies the criteria in section 9 for the issue of a Cox 3 certificate, apply for the issue of that certificate.	Updated website to “yourcareer.gov.au” to reflect the current website.

<i>Note 2</i> For paragraph (c), the form <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i> is available from the AMSA website at: http://www.amsa.gov.au. The <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i> are also available from the AMSA website. To obtain a <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i>, the <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i> must be met. <i>Note 3</i> For paragraph (d), details of this course are available at myskills.gov.au.	<i>Note 2</i> For paragraph (c), the form <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i> is available from the AMSA website at: http://www.amsa.gov.au. The <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i> are also available from the AMSA website. To obtain a <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i>, the <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i> must be met. <i>Note 3</i> For paragraph (d), details of this course are available at yourcareer.gov.au.	
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9 Issue of certificate <i>First Issue</i> (1) For paragraph 60(1)(b) of the national law, the criteria are that the person must: (a) be at least 16 years old; and (b) be familiar enough with the English language that the person can fully understand directions and documents relating to the performance of the duties and functions permitted under the certificate; and (c) meet the eligibility requirements mentioned in Schedule 3 for the kind of certificate sought; and (d) meet the requirements, if any, for qualifying sea service mentioned in Schedule 3 for the kind of certificate sought; and (e) have a current <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i> that shows the person meets the <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i>; and (f) have a current first aid certificate equivalent to at least HLTAID011 <i>Provide first aid</i>. <i>Note 1</i> For paragraph (e), the form <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i> is available from the AMSA website at: http://www.amsa.gov.au. The <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i> are also available from the AMSA website. To obtain a <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i>, the <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i> must be met. <i>Note 2</i> For paragraph (f), details of this course are available at myskills.gov.au.	9 Issue of certificate <i>First Issue</i> (1) For paragraph 60(1)(b) of the national law, the criteria are that the person must: (a) be at least 16 years old; and (b) be familiar enough with the English language that the person can fully understand directions and documents relating to the performance of the duties and functions permitted under the certificate; and (c) meet the eligibility requirements mentioned in Schedule 3 for the kind of certificate sought; and (d) meet the requirements, if any, for qualifying sea service mentioned in Schedule 3 for the kind of certificate sought; and (e) have a current <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i> that shows the person meets the <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i>; and (f) have a current first aid certificate equivalent to at least HLTAID011 <i>Provide first aid</i>. <i>Note 1</i> For paragraph (e), the form <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i> is available from the AMSA website at: http://www.amsa.gov.au. The <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i> are also available from the AMSA website. To obtain a <i>Certificate of Medical Fitness Domestic Seafarers</i>, the <i>Standards for the medical examination of domestic seafarers</i> must be met. <i>Note 2</i> For paragraph (f), details of this course are available at yourcareer.gov.au.	Updated website to “yourcareer.gov.au” to reflect the current website.
12 Form of certificate (1) A certificate of competency must include the following: (a) the name of the person to whom it is issued;	12 Interim certificate - form If the National Regulator decides to issue a certificate of competency, a letter from the National Regulator setting out the details of the certificate of competency is taken to be the certificate	Removed the explicit form requirements to provide flexibility. This will allow for the introduction of digital

(b) the date of birth of the person; (c) a passport-style photograph taken in the 6 months before the person applied for the certificate; (d) the date the certificate comes into force; (e) the date the certificate ceases to be in force; (f) the kind of certificate; (g) conditions imposed by the national Regulator on the certificate; (h) the endorsements (if any) on the certificate. (2) However, after the National Regulator decides to issue a certificate of competency and before the person to whom it is issued receives it, a letter from the National Regulator setting out the details of the certificate of competency is taken to be a certificate of competency. Note This is intended to allow the person to use the certificate while the plastic card including the photograph is prepared and before the person receives it. (3) A certificate of competency may include anything else the National Regulator considers relevant.	until the person to whom the certificate is issued receives it. <i>Note</i> The purpose of the letter is to allow a person to perform the duties or functions related to the certificate of competency until the person receives the certificate, whether issued in printed form or electronic form (digital).	certificates without a photograph and to continue to recognise printed cards during the transition. This change will future proof the marine order and take a similar approach to Marine Order 503 – Certificates of survey which does not outline the form of a certificate of survey. The provision for interim certificates is retained.
13 Conditions on certificate (f) the holder must keep the certificate on board any vessel on which the holder is performing duties for which the certificate is required. Note 1 The National Regulator may impose other conditions — see paragraph 60(4)(b) of the national law. Note 2 It is an offence to perform duties or functions for a domestic commercial vessel in breach of a condition of a certificate of competency — see section 69 of the national law.	13 Conditions on certificate (f) the holder must make the certificate available for inspection while on board any vessel on which the holder is performing duties for which the certificate is required. <i>Note for paragraph (f)</i> The certificate, whether printed or digital, must be accessible while the holder is on board the vessel. <i>Note 1</i> Section 60 of the national law has been modified by section 17 of the <i>Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Regulation 2013</i>. Paragraph 60(4)(a) has been	Updated paragraph to ensure practicality for both printed and digital certificates. Inserted new note clarifying a reference to paragraph 60(4)(ab) of the National Law is correct and directs readers to the Regulation that modifies it.

	repealed and replaced with paragraphs 60(4)(a) and (ab). Note 2 The National Regulator may impose other conditions — see paragraph 60(4)(b) of the national law. Note 3 It is an offence to perform duties or functions for a domestic commercial vessel in breach of a condition of a certificate of competency — see section 69 of the national law.	
21 Return of revoked certificate For section 84 of the national law, the revoked certificate must be delivered to the National Regulator within 90 days of the day the certificate was revoked.	21 Return of revoked certificate For section 84 of the national law, the revoked certificate that is in printed form must be delivered to the National Regulator within 90 days of the day the certificate was revoked.	Updated to reflect relevance to printed certificates only.
Schedule 3 Eligibility and sea service requirements (paragraphs 9(1)(c) and (d)) <i>Note</i> The skills and knowledge relevant to the duties and functions of the above certificates are set out in the AMSA document MO 505 Certificates of Competency Skills and Knowledge — see the AMSA website at http://www.amsa.gov.au	Schedule 3 Eligibility and sea service requirements (paragraphs 9(1)(c) and (d)) <i>Note</i> The skills and knowledge relevant to the duties and functions of the above certificates are set out in the AMSA document Skills and Knowledge Required for National Law Certificates of Competency — see the AMSA website at http://www.amsa.gov.au	Updated document title so it can be more easily located on the AMSA website.