



MASTER

The following provides a summary of the requirements for a **Master Certificate of Competency**. 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*, which replaces *Marine Order 3 (Seagoing qualifications) 2004*.

What will I be able to do with this certificate?

You will be able to perform the duties of:

- **Master or Chief Mate or Watchkeeper Deck Officer** on ships of any gross tonnage in any operating area.

How do I get this certificate?

To obtain a **Master Certificate of Competency** you will need to:

- ✓ Hold or have held either a:
 - **Master <3000 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Chief Mate Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Chief Mate <3000 GT Certificate of Competency**.
- ✓ Have completed either:

OPTION 1: you will need to:

- ✓ Have completed 36 months sea service as an officer in charge of a navigation watch on vessels ≥ 500 GT, of which at least 6 months on ships ≥ 1500 GT, while holding any of the following certificates:
 - **Watchkeeper Deck Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Chief Mate <3000 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Master <500 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Chief Mate Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Master <3000 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Mate <500 GT Certificate of Competency**, (with **Chief Mate <3000 GT near-coastal endorsement**), or
 - A foreign certificate AMSA considers equivalent to the above.

OPTION 2: you will need to:

- ✓ Have completed at least 24 months sea service in charge of a navigation watch on vessels ≥ 500 GT, of which at least 6 months on ships ≥ 1500 GT, with 12 months served on vessels as **Chief Mate** or **Master** while holding a:
 - **Master <500 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Chief Mate <3000 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Chief Mate Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Mate <500 GT Certificate of Competency**, or (with **Chief Mate <3000 GT near-coastal endorsement**).

For both options you will also need to:

- ✓ Have completed 24 months sea service on voyages of at least 24 hour duration.
- ✓ Have served on ships for at least 12 months while holding a:
 - **Chief Mate <3000 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Chief Mate Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Master <3000 GT Certificate of Competency**.
- ✓ Complete an AMSA approved course of study from an AMSA approved seafarer training organisation for a **Master**.
- ✓ Complete the following approved STCW short courses:
 - Security Awareness Training,
 - Advanced Fire Fighting, and
 - 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; and
 - GMDSS Radio Operators Certificate or GMDSS Certificate of Recognition.
- ✓ Have completed of the course – Security Awareness Training (please note, this training needs only be completed once in a seafarers career and does not need to be repeated); and
- ✓ 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:

- obtain a letter(s) from your employer(s) confirming sea service and stating that you have actively participated in the mandatory abandon ship and fire drills required by SOLAS as well as scheduled drills required by the on board Safety Management System (see [sample template letter](#)). A copy of the letter should be submitted with the application (you should keep the original); and
- complete continued competence refresher training for the STCW short courses in Advanced Fire Fighting and Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats in the previous 5 years (refer to MO 71 Schedule 4).

If you DO NOT HAVE at least the specified seagoing service mentioned above, you will be required to complete the Full STCW short courses in Advanced Fire Fighting and Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and one of the revalidation options c, d or e shown above within 5 years, before applying to revalidate.

- Note:**
- All continued competence refresher courses are valid for up to 5 years and may only be used once for revalidation purposes.
 - **All certificates and training must comply with STCW;**
 - **All training courses and training programs must be approved by AMSA; and**
 - **All sea service must be documented qualifying sea service.**

For contact details of AMSA approved seafarer training organisations see Fact Sheet [STCW 27 Training Approved Courses](#).