

Marine Engineer Class 2 (MEC 2)

**This guideline is for new applicants for a
Marine Engineer Class 2 certificate of competency**

SeaCert

Marine Engineer Class 2 (MEC 2)

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1. Overview

Marine Engineer Class 2 (MEC 2) certificate of competency

This guideline is for new applicants for the MEC 2 certificate of competency. It does not cover recognition of an equivalent certificate obtained outside New Zealand.

The information in this guideline covers training, sea service and other requirements for the certificate, how to apply and pay for your certificate, and where to find out more.

Your MEC 2 certificate is valid for five years.

For more details about the requirements for recognition and renewal (revalidation) of certificates, refer to the Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) website:

maritimenz.govt.nz/seafarers

This certificate corresponds with the certificate for second engineer on ships powered by main propulsion machinery of 3000kW propulsion power or more, issued under Regulation III/2 of the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 2010 (STCW).

With a MEC 2 certificate, you can perform the functions and duties of:

- second engineer on ships of any main propulsion power in any operating area
- chief engineer on fishing ships of any propulsion power in any operating area.

The second engineer is the engineer officer next in rank to the chief engineer officer, with responsibility for the ship's mechanical propulsion and for the operation and maintenance of its mechanical and electrical installations in the event of incapacity of the chief engineer officer.

For the MEC 2 certificate, you can choose to qualify on either motor-powered or steam-powered engines, or on both types of engine. Your sea service and training must be appropriate for the type of propulsion power, and your certificate will show the type of main engine propulsion power you are qualified to operate on as second engineer.

From MEC 2, with additional sea service, training and assessment you can progress to MEC 2 endorsed chief engineer or to MEC 1.

Disclaimer

These guidelines provide information and explanations about the requirements set out in the maritime rules, but are not a substitute for the rules themselves, which are the law. These guidelines refer to provisions in Maritime Rules Part 32, Seafarer Certification. The Director of Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) will grant a certificate only when satisfied that all requirements have been met. In this guideline, any references to 'we' or Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) relating to a decision about the issue or renewal of any seafarer certificate are references to the Director or a person acting under the Director's delegated authority.

maritimenz.govt.nz/rules

2. Requirements

Before you spend time doing sea service and training, we recommend you check that you can meet the medical fitness and eyesight standards (including for colour vision), and that you understand the fit and proper person requirements.

To get this certificate, you need to prove that you meet all of the requirements. In summary, you need to:

- be at least 19 years old, medically fit and have good eyesight
- be of good character and a fit and proper person
- have met the requirements for a MEC 3 certificate of competency or equivalent
- prove that you have the minimum sea service requirements
- attend and pass a MEC 2 training course
- obtain certificates for the required ancillary proficiencies
- pass MNZ's final exam.

Each of these requirements and how to prove that you meet them is explained below.

You must also have English conversation, reading and writing skills appropriate to the responsibilities and functions for the level of your certificate, so that you can satisfactorily complete training, pass examinations and discharge your duties.

Note: Some candidates prefer to complete training for the MEC 1 certificate without first getting a MEC 2 certificate. Once you have completed all of the requirements for your MEC 3 certificate, you can progress to MEC 1 by undertaking additional sea service, training and exams. Refer to the MEC 1 certificate guidelines for more information.

2.1 Prior certification and qualifications

You must hold a current MEC 3 certificate of competency or equivalent.

2. Requirements (continued)

2.2 Sea service

Sea service requirements

Your sea service must be relevant and appropriate to the requirements set out in the maritime rules. In practice, this means that you should:

- complete all of your sea service as an engineering officer (exercising the role of MEC 3) in the engine department, while holding your MEC 3 or equivalent certificate *and*
- complete at least 12 months' approved sea service performing engine room watchkeeping duties on commercial ships or New Zealand warships with propulsion power of 750kW or more.

You must also complete one of the following options:

Option 1 (certifying motor propulsion): at least six months' sea service on a motor ship (a ship with diesel main propelling machinery) with propulsion power of 750kW or more

Option 2 (certifying steam propulsion): at least six months' sea service on a steam ship with propulsion power of 750kW or more

Option 3 (certifying combined motor and steam propulsion): at least six months' sea service on motor ships with propulsion power of 750kW or more, and at least six months on steam ships with propulsion power of 750kW or more.

All of your sea service must have been completed in the 10 years before your certificate is issued.

Proving your sea service

You are responsible for ensuring that your sea service is documented and verified by your ship's master or company. The *summary of sea service form* on MNZ's website can be used to help keep track of your sea service. (This form is not required for your certificate application.)

To support your sea service, you must provide at least one of the following documents for each vessel you have served on:

- certificate of sea service
- completed seafarer's record book
- discharge certificate or discharge book (if using a New Zealand discharge book, make sure you get the watchkeeping section signed off).

If it is not included in any of the documents above, you must also provide a reference (on company letterhead), from the ship's master, chief engineer or your employer. The reference must state the start and end dates of your service, your duties while in service, and your experience, conduct, sobriety and ability.

Each of the documents you provide for each vessel must contain:

- your employer's name and contact details
- the name, tonnage details and type of vessel (for example, passenger, non-passenger, fishing)
- the type of cargo carried and area of operation
- the dates you were employed and the sea time you completed
- your duties and the actual time spent on engine room watchkeeping.

Any statutory declarations you have made are not acceptable as proof of your sea service.

2. Requirements (continued)

Calculating sea service

Relevant qualifying sea service is expected to be on voyages of 24 hours or more, calculated as follows:

- from the sign-on date of starting work on the ship to the sign-off date of discharge (both dates are inclusive)
- by counting each whole calendar month during this period as one month
- for multiple voyages, by adding together extra days that do not fall within a calendar month, with each addition of 30 days to be calculated as one month.

Extended time in port is generally not counted as sea service, and nor is time on leave.

Note:

Voyage means a voyage between a port or place of departure and a ship's final port or place of arrival. It includes any period of 24 hours (or more) where you are signed on or employed on the vessel and you remain on board.

For example: If your service record shows your sign-on date as 3 March and sign-off date as 14 April, your sea service would be calculated as one month (3 March to 2 April) and 12 days (from 3 to 14 April inclusive).

Sea service pre-assessment

If you are unsure whether you have met the sea service requirements, you can ask us to assess your sea service time before you make your full application. We charge a fee to do this (see 3.2 *Fees and payment options*).

To have your sea service pre-assessed, you need to:

- apply for pre-assessment using MNZ's *pre-assessment form*
- pay a pre-assessment fee
- send us the documents we need (see *Proving your sea service* above) in order to check your sea service.

Note:

If you are pre-assessed and have the required sea service for the MEC 2 certificate, add your pre-assessment reference number to your *seafarer certificate application form*.

2. Requirements (continued)

2.3 Training and experience

Training

You must attend and pass an approved MEC 2 training course to achieve all of the required competencies at the management level, as specified in section A-III/2 of the STCW Code.

The New Zealand Maritime School offers options for completing MEC 2 and MEC 1 training separately or together.

Check with your training provider about which papers you must pass to fulfill the training requirements for the MEC 2 certificate.

You can find out more about training providers and the competency framework for this certificate on MNZ's website:

maritimenz.govt.nz/seafarers

Final examination

You must pass a final examination (currently an oral examination) by an MNZ-approved examiner. This is usually arranged by your training provider. Your results will be sent to MNZ.

Refer to the MNZ website for more information:

maritimenz.govt.nz/seafarers

2. Requirements (continued)

Ancillary certificates

You must provide copies of the ancillary certificates you gained as part of your MEC 3 training. These are shown below. Your training provider should also offer this training and will provide you with a certificate for each of these courses to confirm that you have demonstrated proficiency in the required skills.

If you already have a current ancillary certificate that demonstrates proficiency in the areas listed below and at the required level, you may use it – as long as the specific requirements are met.

Ancillary certificate requirements	Document(s) you must provide
STCW basic training	STCW basic training that complies with STCW A-VI/1 paragraph 2 and covers basic personal survival techniques (A-VI/1-1), fire prevention and fire fighting (A-VI/1-2), elementary first aid (A-VI/1-3) and personal safety and social responsibility (A-VI/1-4). This may be issued as one certificate citing the four elements or as four separate certificates
Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats (PISC)	STCW survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats certificate that complies with STCW Code section A-VI/2 paragraphs 1-4 (Table A-VI/2-1)
Advanced fire fighting	STCW advanced fire fighting certificate that complies with STCW Code section A-VI-3, paragraphs 1-4 (Table A-VI/3)
Proficiency in medical first aid	STCW medical first aid on board ship certificate that complies with STCW Code section A-VI/4, paragraphs 1-3 (Table A-VI/4-1)

Your ancillary certificates must:

- be current (not expired) when we issue your MEC 2 certificate
Note: The following ancillary certifications must be less than five years old from the date of issue (or, if older, you must demonstrate that you have maintained the required standard of competency to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities specified in the relevant STCW tables):
 - STCW A-VI/1-1 basic personal survival techniques
 - STCW A-VI/1-2 fire prevention and fire fighting
 - STCW A-VI/2-1 proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats (PISC)
 - STCW A-VI/3 advanced fire fighting (section 3.6 and Table A-VI/3).

2. Requirements (continued)

Your certificates must also:

- conform to the STCW regulations and have the appropriate STCW regulation number
- be from a training provider approved under the New Zealand Education Act or by Maritime New Zealand, or from a training provider in a country where MNZ has determined that ancillary training is STCW-compliant. (Refer to the recognition guidelines on MNZ's website for information about recognition of ancillary certificates obtained outside New Zealand)
- be seen by us before we can issue your MEC 2 certificate.

Although it is not an STCW requirement, we encourage you to maintain the currency of your certificates for first aid and medical first aid on board ship, in accordance with the requirements of the issuing organisation.

For more details, including the information you need to provide to demonstrate currency if you already hold an ancillary certificate, refer to the ancillary certificate guidelines on MNZ's website:

maritimenz.govt.nz/seafarers

Security awareness training

MNZ strongly recommends that you also get an ancillary certificate for proficiency in security awareness training (STCW A-VI/6-1). This certificate is needed if you wish to work on any ship that the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code applies to.

If you do not provide this ancillary certificate, your MEC 2 certificate will have a condition stating that without a current certificate for proficiency in security awareness training (STCW A-VI/6-1), it is not valid for vessels to which ISPS applies.

We will accept a proficiency in security awareness training certificate that has been approved by the administration of any country with which New Zealand has an agreement for recognition of STCW certificates.

For more information about ancillary security awareness training or the recognition process for this certificate, refer to the ancillary guidelines or recognition guidelines, respectively, on MNZ's website:

maritimenz.govt.nz/seafarers

2. Requirements (continued)

2.4 Fit and proper person

We need to confirm that you are of good character. To help us do this, there are several forms we need from you, which are outlined below.

Requirement	Document(s) you must provide
Be of good character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A completed <i>fit and proper person form</i>, which you must have signed and dated no more than three months before we receive your application• A police clearance report for any country or countries outside New Zealand that you have lived in for 12 months or longer in the past five years (covering the entire period you lived in that country or countries)

Refer to 5. *Forms* for all of the forms that you will need to complete your application.

Links related to this requirement

- [Apply for or renew a passport \[Internal Affairs website\]](#)
- [Get your driver's licence \[NZ Transport Agency website\]](#)
- [Apply for your birth certificate \[Internal Affairs website\]](#)

2. Requirements (continued)

2.5 Medical examination and eyesight test

You need to prove that your medical fitness and eyesight meet the required standard.

Requirement	Document(s) you must provide
Be medically fit	<p>A certificate of medical fitness for seafarers that is valid at the time we issue your MEC 2 certificate (after you have completed all of your exams and ancillary certificates).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This is a special medical certificate that complies with STCW regulation I/9. You must get this from an approved medical practitioner, or from a medical practitioner approved for issuing seafarer medicals in another country that is party to STCW. <p>You may use an existing medical certificate if it will be valid (usually less than two years old) when your MEC 2 certificate is issued.</p>
Have good eyesight	<p>Eyesight test results showing you have met the required standards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">visual acuity (including a letter eyesight test). Your eyesight test results must be less than 12 months old at the time we issue your certificatecolour vision. This is initially assessed as part of the seafarer's certificate of medical fitness, using the Ishihara colour vision test. If you fail the Ishihara test, you will need to take an alternative colour vision test with a registered optometrist (for more details, refer to the Advisory Circular for Part 34 on MNZ's website). <p>Your colour vision test results (of either test) must be less than six years old at the time your MEC 2 certificate is issued.</p>

For more information about the medical and eyesight requirements for this certificate, refer to the guidelines on MNZ's website:

maritimenz.govt.nz/seafarers

2. Requirements (continued)

2.6 Age and identity

We need to confirm your age and identity. To help us do this, there are several documents we need from you, which are outlined below.

Requirement	Document(s) you must provide
Prove your identity and be 19 or older	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your completed <i>seafarer certificate application form</i>• Either your passport (make sure it has not expired) <i>or</i> your driver's licence and birth certificate• Two passport-sized photographs (<i>or</i> ask the photographer to provide an electronic copy, which you can then forward to MNZ if you are emailing us your application)

Refer to 5. *Forms* for all of the forms that you will need to complete your application.

Links for these requirements

- Apply for or renew a passport [Internal Affairs website]
- Get your driver's licence [NZ Transport Agency website]
- Apply for your birth certificate [Internal Affairs website]

3. When and how to apply

Apply when you have completed all of the certificate requirements. Once we have received all of the information we need from you, it may take us up to 20 working days to process your application, so send it in as soon as possible (and at least one month before you need your certificate).

Make sure you include all of the documents we have asked for. Refer to *3.4 Checklist* to make sure you have everything you need for your application.

Note:

If your application is incomplete, it will not be processed and we will return your application and other documents to you.

3.1 Copies of supporting documents

We only need copies of your supporting documents, not the original versions.

The only exception is supporting documents for the *fit and proper person form* (your passport or driver's licence and birth certificate) – these need to be certified copies.

We do not need to see any of the documents you have already sent to us for other applications – just make a note about these documents in your application. However, if any of these documents have expired or will expire before we issue your certificate, we need to see a copy of the new or renewed document.

3. When and how to apply (continued)

3.2 Fees and payment options

The fee for this certificate is NZ\$995, which includes goods and services tax (GST).

If applicable, the sea service pre-assessment fee is NZ\$398, including GST. If your sea service is pre-assessed, your MEC 2 application fee will be reduced to NZ\$625, including GST.

You need to include payment by cheque or indicate your other chosen payment method on your *seafarer certificate application form*.

You can pay:

- online using a credit card or debit card, *or*
- by internet banking or bank deposit, *or*
- by cheque (which you include with your application).

Refer to the MNZ website for more information about how to pay your fees:

maritimenz.govt.nz/howtopay

As well as the application fee, you may have other fees and expenses to pay. For example, you may need to pay for your eyesight tests, medical examination, training and ancillary courses.

3. When and how to apply (continued)

3.3 Application process

This is the application process for this certificate of competency. Complete each step before you move on to the next one.

1 Do you meet all of the requirements?

Check that you meet all of the requirements for this certificate.

Move to step 2 once you know what the requirements are and that you can meet them.

2 Do you have the documents we need?

Prove that you meet the requirements. Include all of the documents we have asked for. Use the checklist (see 3.4. *Checklist*) to help you.

Remember: We need copies, not the originals.

Move to step 3 once you have copies of all of the documents we have asked for.

3 Complete the application forms

You need to complete several forms as part of your application. Use the checklist to help make sure you have provided all of the information we need.

Remember: for the *fit and proper person form* we need certified copies of your identification documents.

Move to step 4 once you have completed all of the forms needed for your application.

4 Pay the application fee

You need to pay an application fee. The options for payment are:

- pay by bank deposit or internet banking, *or*
- pay online using a credit card or debit card, *or*
- include a cheque with your application.
- Move to step 5 once you know what you need to pay and you have either included a cheque with your application or chosen another payment option.

3. When and how to apply (continued)

5 Send us your application by courier or email

There are two options for you to send your application:

1. Use a courier to send us your completed application forms, supporting documents and cheque for the application fee (if using that payment option).
2. Send your application by email, attaching the scanned documents. (The application form has information about the requirements for electronic copies.)

Move to step 6 once you have ticked everything on the checklist and either couriered or emailed your completed application to MNZ (using the address provided at 3.5 *Where to send your application*).

6 Send confirmation and/or request

We will send you an email or letter to:

- confirm that we have received your application
- give you reference details to pay the application fee (if you did not include a cheque with your application)
- list any documents we need from you before we can assess your application.

We must receive your payment before we can progress your application.

7 Assessment

After you have paid the fee and sent us all the documents we need, we will assess your application and make a decision. This will usually take 20 working days (about a month).

8 Issue certificate

We will send you:

1. your certificate, if your application has been successful, *or*
2. an email or letter explaining why your application was unsuccessful.

3. When and how to apply (continued)

3.4 Checklist

Use this checklist to make sure you have everything you need for your application.

Check that your documents are complete and have been signed, dated and certified as required.

We need to see all of the documents listed below to confirm that you have met each requirement. The only exceptions to this are documents that you have already sent to us for other applications (just note this in your application). However, if a document has expired or will expire before we issue your certificate, we need to see a copy of the new or renewed document.

About you

- Seafarer certificate application form*
- Certified copies of your passport *or* driver's licence and birth certificate
- Two passport-sized photos *or* an electronic copy
- Fit and proper person form*
- Police clearance report for other countries (if applicable)
- Copy of certificate of medical fitness for seafarers
- Copy of eyesight test(s) results
- Your pre-assessment reference number if we pre-assessed your sea service time

Your MEC 2 training

- Course completion letter and assessment record
- Your final examination results

3. When and how to apply (continued)

Your sea service

Include at least *one* of the following for each vessel/period of sea service:

- Certificate of sea service*
- Discharge book (or discharge certificates)
- Seafarer's record book showing your seagoing service

Include the following for *all* of your sea service:

- Summary of sea service form*
- Master's and/or employer's reference (testimonial) (unless included in evidence of sea service above)

Your ancillary certificates

- STCW A-VI/1 basic training
- STCW A-VI/2-1 proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats (other than fast rescue boats)
- STCW A-VI/3 advanced fire fighting
- STCW A-VI/4-1 medical first aid
- STCW A-VI/6-1 security awareness training (if completed)

Remember:

- Either include a cheque (in \$NZ) or indicate which other payment option you'd like to use
- Send your application to us by courier or email
- Send your application to us as early as you can
- Check that your MNZ-approved Maritime Examiner has sent us your final exam results

3. When and how to apply (continued)

3.5 Where to send your application

To provide extra security, we recommend that you courier your application forms and documents to us.

Alternatively, you can scan and email your application and supporting documents (refer to the application form for information about how to send your documents electronically).

Courier your application to:

Seafarer Certification
Maritime New Zealand
1 Grey Street
WELLINGTON 6011

Or

Email your application to:

seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz

4. Contact us for help

If you need more information about the requirements for your application, visit the Seafarer Certification section of our website.

maritimenz.govt.nz/seafarers

If you can't find the information you need, send us an email:

seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz

Tell us what you need help with and remember to include your contact details (email address and phone numbers).

We need your completed application before we can assess whether you meet the requirements for this certificate of competency. However, you may apply for pre-assessment of your sea service (refer to *2.3 Training and experience*).

5. Forms

To apply for a maritime certificate of competency, there are several forms that you must provide and some that you may provide, depending on your situation.

Everyone applying for this certificate of competency must complete and send us all of the following forms:

- *Seafarer certificate application form*
- *Fit and proper person form.*

Other forms you may need to use:

- *Summary of seagoing service form*
- *Seafarer certificate pre-assessment form.*

Each of these forms is available on the MNZ website:

maritimenz.govt.nz/seafarers

Note:

You must complete these forms correctly for your application to be valid. Carefully read any notes before you start.