



CHIEF MATE

The following provides a summary of the requirements for a **Chief Mate 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:

- **Chief Mate** on ships of any gross tonnage in any operating area,
- **Watchkeeper Deck Officer** on ships of any gross tonnage in any operating area, or
 - If endorsed; **Master** on ships <500 GT in any operating area and **Master** on ships <3000 GT in near-coastal waters.

How do I get this certificate?

To obtain a **Chief Mate Certificate of Competency**, you will need to:

- ✓ Hold or have held a Certificate of Competency as:
 - A **Watchkeeper Deck**, or
 - A **Master <500 GT**, or
 - A **Master <3000 GT**, or
 - A **Chief Mate <3000 GT**, or
 - A foreign certificate AMSA considers equivalent to the above.
- ✓ Complete 12 months sea service in charge of a navigation watch on ships ≥ 500 GT, while holding a valid certificate from the list above on voyages of at least 24 hour duration.
- ✓ Complete an AMSA approved course of study from an AMSA approved seafarer training organisation for a **Chief Mate**.
- ✓ Complete the following approved STCW short courses:
 - Security Awareness Training
 - Advanced Fire Fighting
 - 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, and
 - AMSA Certificate of Medical Fitness.
- ✓ To serve on an ECDIS equipped ship, you must hold an ECDIS endorsement.
- ✓ Pass an AMSA oral examination.

For an endorsed **Master <3000 GT** near-coastal and **Master <500 GT** unlimited, you must hold a **Chief Mate Certificate of Competency** and complete:

- At least 36 months sea service in charge of a navigation watch on ships ≥ 24 metres, with 24 months on voyages of 24 hour duration, while holding any of the following certificates:
 - **Chief Mate Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Chief Mate <3000 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Unrestricted Master <35m NC Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Master <500 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Watchkeeper Deck Certificate of Competency**, or
 - **Watchkeeper Deck <500 GT Certificate of Competency (with Watchkeeper Deck <3000 GT near-coastal endorsement)**, or
 - **Mate <500 GT Certificate of Competency**, or
 - Any certificate AMSA considers equivalent to the above.
- OR
- At least 24 months sea service in charge of a navigation watch on ships ≥ 24 m, with 16 months on voyages of 24 hour duration, and with 12 months served on ships as **Master** or **Chief Mate**, while holding a:
 - Chief Mate Certificate of Competency, or
 - Chief Mate <3000 GT Certificate of Competency, or
 - Master <500 GT Certificate of Competency, or
 - Mate <500GT Certificate of Competency.

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.

Where can I go from here?

With additional sea service and completion of an approved program of study you could gain a:

- Certificate of Competency as a Master, or
- Certificate of Competency as a Master <3000 GT.

Please note:

- **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](#).