



WATCHKEEPER DECK

The following provides a summary of the requirements for a **Watchkeeper Deck 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:

- **Watchkeeper Deck Officer** on ships of any gross tonnage in any operating area.

How do I get this certificate?

To obtain a **Watchkeeper Deck Certificate of Competency**, you will need to:

- ✓ Have completed any of the following:
 - An AMSA approved pre-sea course and onboard training program for trainee deck officers, with at least 18 months sea service on vessels ≥ 500 GT, or
 - A non-AMSA approved pre-sea course and AMSA approved onboard training program for trainee deck officers, with at least 24 months sea service on vessels ≥ 500 GT, or
 - An AMSA approved onboard training program for Integrated Ratings, with at least 24 months sea service on vessels ≥ 500 GT as an Integrated Rating, or
 - 36 months sea service on vessels ≥ 24 metres.
- ✓ Have completed at least 12 months sea service on voyages of 24 hours duration with at least 6 of the 12 months as either understudy of the officer in charge of a navigation watch, or what AMSA considers equivalent to this.
- ✓ Have completed an AMSA approved course of study from an AMSA approved seafarer training organisation for a **Watchkeeper Deck**.
- ✓ Have completed the following approved STCW short courses:
 - Basic Safety Training course, which includes Security Awareness training,
 - Advanced Fire Fighting, and
 - Medical First Aid.

- ✓ If you hold a **Watchkeeper Deck <500 GT Certificate of Competency** the certificate must also have endorsement for **Watchkeeper Deck <3000 GT near-coastal**.
- ✓ Hold the following valid certificates:
 - Certificate in Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats,
 - GMDSS Radio Operators Certificate, and an
 - AMSA Certificate of Medical Fitness.
- ✓ Hold an ECDIS endorsement, if serving on 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.

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 Chief Mate <3000 GT, or
- Certificate of Competency as a Chief Mate, or
- Endorsement - Master <3000 GT near-coastal.

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](#).