

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
STCW OFFICE

STCW Circular No. 2016-07

TO: ALL SEAFARERS, MARITIME INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS, MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, PORT STATE CONTROL, AND OTHER ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION, ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF RATINGS AS ABLE SEAFARER DECK ON A SEAGOING SHIP OF 500 GROSS TONNAGE OR MORE

Pursuant to Republic Act 10635 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), as amended, the following rules shall be adopted:

1. OBJECTIVES

- .1 To prescribe standards and procedures in full compliance of the requirements of STCW Regulation II/5 Mandatory Minimum Requirements for Examination, Assessment, and Certification of Rating as Able Seafarer Deck on a seagoing ship of 500 gross tonnage or more; and
- .2 To streamline the requirements ensuring that all candidates for Able Seafarer Deck are adequately equipped and are in full compliance with the requirements of STCW, as amended.

2. COVERAGE

This Circular covers the Examination, Assessment and Certification of candidates for Ratings as Able seafarer Deck.

3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Circular, in addition to the terms defined under STCW Circular No. 2014-01 and other relevant STCW Circulars, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- .1 "Rating" means a member of the ship's crew other than the master or an officer;
- .2 "Candidate" refers to any seafarer who intends to undergo assessment of competence to qualify for certification as a rating as Able seafarer deck;
- .3 "Approved Education and Training Program" refers to the education and training program as approved by the Administration for the purpose of qualifying as Ratings as Able Seafarer Deck;
- .5 "Certificate of Proficiency" means a certificate, other than a certificate of competency issued to a seafarer, stating that the relevant requirements of training, competencies or seagoing service in the Convention have been met;

4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY (C.O.P.) FOR RATINGS AS ABLE SEAFARER DECK

- .1 Every candidate for certification as Able Seafarer Deck shall meet the standard of competence by passing the Theoretical examination (Annex I) and Practical assessment (Annex II);
- .2 The candidate for certification shall also submit proof of approved seagoing service in the deck department, on a seagoing ship of 500 gross tonnage or more, while qualified to serve as ratings forming part of a navigational watch, the latest of which is not beyond 5 years ago:
 - .2.1 Not less than 18 months; or
 - .2.2 Not less than 12 months and have completed approved training; and
- .3 Assessment of competence in Ancillary Proficiencies under Section A-VI/2, paragraphs 1-4 by completing Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats.

5. THEORETICAL EXAMINATION

.1 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

Every candidate for examination of rating as Able seafarer deck shall submit:

- .1.1 NSO Birth Certificate or Passport or SIRB, showing that candidate is not less than 18 years of age;

.1.2 Approved seagoing service in the deck department, on a seagoing ship of 500 gross tonnage or more, while qualified to serve as a rating forming part of a navigational watch, the latest of which is not beyond 5 years ago:

.1.2.1 Not less than 18 months; or

.1.2.2 Not less than 12 months and have completed 'approved training;

.2 PROCEDURES FOR THEORETICAL EXAMINATION

The candidate shall:

.2.1 Prior to taking the theoretical examination:

.2.1.1 submit all the Specific Requirements under Section 5.1 to:

.2.1.1.1 STCW online system for uploading documents;
and

.2.1.1.2 the Examination and Assessment Division (EAD)
of STCW Office of MARINA in Manila; or

.2.1.1.3 EAD's counterpart in any MARINA Regional
Office; or

.2.1.1.4 Approved Assessment Center

.2.1.2 secure an online appointment number, date and time, then
proceed to EAD/ACs on the given schedule, with all the
original documents;

.2.1.3 after verification of validity and authenticity of Specific
Requirements, complete the form "Application for Theoretical
Examination" and indicate the particular competences that the
candidate intends to take examination;

.2.1.4 pay the corresponding examination fee, which shall be a fixed
amount each time the candidate sits for the examination,
whether taken in full, partially, or re-sit;

.2.1.5 register in the Seafarers' Certification System;

.2.1.6 secure a schedule from the EAD; and

.2.1.7 proceed to the examination at the scheduled venue and time;

.2.2 During the examination:

.2.2.1 report to the examination venue at least 30 minutes prior to
schedule;

.2.2.2 follow the instructions of the authorized MARINA personnel or
accredited assessor;

.2.2.3 take the examination only for the competences indicated;

.2.2.4 complete the examination in every competence indicated within
the time allowed; and

.2.2.5 not leave the examination premises until after taking the examination, as scheduled;

.2.3 After taking the examination:

.2.3.1 secure ratings in the various competences;

.2.3.2 note the competences with a failing mark, if any; and

.2.3.3 schedule for re-sit, if necessary; or

.2.3.4 schedule other competences not yet taken, if necessary;

.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL PASSING OF THE THEORETICAL EXAMINATION

For successfully passing and completing the theoretical examination, the following shall be complied with:

.3.1 The candidate shall pass all the competences within a period not exceeding 2 years (24 months) (see Annex I);

.3.2 If the candidate fails to complete all the competences within the 2-year period, those that received a "PASSED" mark beyond 2 years shall expire, and shall be re-examined accordingly;

.3.3 The candidate may choose as many competences as he intends to take in one sitting;

.3.4 However, a candidate who fails in 3 or more competences in one sitting shall not be allowed to apply for re-sit within a 1-month period ("The 3-1 Rule");

.3.5 A candidate who fails in a particular competence for 3 times, shall not be allowed to apply for re-sit in such competence, until upon showing proof of:

.3.5.1 approved seagoing service for a period of not less than 1 month, with a certification from the ship's master that the candidate has undergone on board experience relating to that particular competence ("The 3-1 Rule"); or

.3.5.2 successful completion of an approved training or refresher program relating to that particular competence, taken after the third failure;

6. PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT

.1 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

Every candidate for examination of rating as Able seafarer deck shall submit:

.1.1 NSO Birth Certificate or Passport or SIRB, showing that candidate is not less than 18 years of age;

- .1.2 Approved seagoing service in the deck department, on a seagoing ship of 500 gross tonnage or more, while qualified to serve as a rating forming part of a navigational watch, the latest of which is not beyond 5 years ago:

- .1.2.1 Not less than 18 months; or

- .1.2.2 Not less than 12 months and have completed approved training;

.2 PROCEDURES FOR PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT

The candidate shall:

- .2.1 Prior to taking the practical assessment:

- .2.1.1 submit all the Specific Requirements under Section 6.1 to:

- .2.1.1.1 STCW online system for uploading documents;
and

- .2.1.1.2 the Examination and Assessment Division (EAD)
of STCW Office of MARINA in Manila; or

- .2.1.1.3 EAD's counterpart in any MARINA Regional
Office; or

- .2.1.1.4 Approved Assessment Center;

- .2.1.2 secure an online appointment number, date and time, then
proceed to EAD/ACs on the given schedule, with all the
original documents;

- .2.1.3 after verification of validity and authenticity of Specific
Requirements, complete the form "Application for Practical
Assessment" and indicate the particular competences that the
candidate intends to take assessment

- .2.1.4 pay the corresponding examination fee, which shall be a fixed
amount each time the candidate sits for the assessment,
whether taken in full, partially, or re-sit;

- .2.1.5 register in the Seafarers' Certification System;

- .2.1.6 secure a schedule from the EAD/ACs; and

- .2.1.7 proceed to the assessment at the scheduled venue and time;

- .2.2 During the practical assessment:

- .2.2.1 report to the assessment venue at least 30 minutes prior to
schedule;

- .2.2.2 follow the instructions of the authorized MARINA personnel or
accredited assessor;

- .2.2.3 take the examination only for the competences indicated;

- .2.2.4 complete the assessment in every competence indicated within
the time allowed; and

.2.2.5 not leave the examination premises until after taking the examination, as scheduled;

.2.3 After taking the practical assessment:

.2.3.1 secure ratings in the various competences;

.2.3.2 note the competences with a failing mark, if any; and

.2.3.3 schedule for re-sit, if necessary; or

.2.3.4 schedule other competences not yet taken, if necessary;

.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL PASSING OF THE PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT

For successfully passing and completing the practical assessment, the following shall be complied with:

.3.1 The candidate shall pass all the competences within a period not exceeding 2 years (24 months) (see Annex II);

.3.2 If the candidate fails to complete all the competences within the 2-year period, those that received a "PASSED" mark beyond 2 years shall expire, and shall be re-assessed accordingly;

.3.3 The candidate may choose as many competences as he intends to take in one sitting;

.3.4 However, a candidate who fails in 3 or more competences in one sitting shall not be allowed to apply for re-sit within a 1-month period ("The 3-1 Rule");

.3.5 A candidate who fails in a particular competence for 3 times, shall not be allowed to apply for re-sit in such competence, until upon showing proof of:

.3.5.1 approved seagoing service for a period of not less than 1 month, with a certification from the ship's master that the candidate has undergone on board experience relating to that particular competence ("The 3-1 Rule"); or

.3.5.2 successful completion of an approved training or refresher program relating to that particular competence, taken after the third failure.

7. DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATION

For a seafarer who has completed all the requirements under specific section 4 of this Circular, Certificate of Proficiency for Ratings as Able seafarer deck on a seagoing ship of 500 gross tonnage or more, shall be issued

8. VALIDITY OF CERTIFICATES

COPs for Ratings as Able Seafarer Deck shall have no expiration.

11. SCHEDULE OF FEES, PENALTIES AND FINES

The schedule of fees, penalties and fines shall be provided in a separate circular.

12. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

.1 The mandatory minimum requirements on tankers and passenger ships under Chapter V of the STCW Code (Special Training Requirements) shall be provided in a separate circular;

.2 The period of validity of any Certificate issued by the Administration shall be in conformance with the standards and guidance set out under the STCW, as amended;

13. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Seafarers who have served in a relevant capacity in the deck department for a period of not less than 12 months within the last 60 months prior to the effectivity of this circular, have met the requirements of Regulation II/5 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, and shall be issued upon request with the corresponding Certificate of Proficiency.

14. PENALTY CLAUSE

Any violation of the provisions of this Circular and other related MARINA issuances shall be governed and sanctioned by the provisions of the IRR for RA 10635 and MARINA Circular No. 2013 – 05 including any amendment or addendum thereof, as may be promulgated by the Administration.

15. REPEALING CLAUSE

Any provision of existing MARINA and STCW Circulars, rules and regulations, or of any other Philippine government agency related to education, training, examination, assessment, licensing and certification of rating as able seafarer deck, which are contrary or inconsistent with this Circular are hereby superseded, repealed or amended accordingly.


16. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

Should any provision or part of this Circular be declared by any competent authority to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts hereof shall remain in full force and effect and shall continue to be valid and effective.


17. EFFECTIVITY:

This STCW Circular shall take effect immediately on the day of its publication. Manila, Philippines, 26 MAY 2016.

Submitted:


HERMINIO P. ESTANIEL JR. MM
Executive Director

Approved:


MAXIMO Q MEJIA JR, PhD
Administrator

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that STCW Circular No. 2016 - 07 was approved by the Administrator on 25 MAY 2016.


ATTY. JABETH SENA JEPATH A. DACANAY
Deputy Executive Director

**GUIDE FOR THE THEORETICAL EXAMINATION OF COMPETENCE FOR
RATINGS AS ABLE SEAFARER DECK**

	Competence	Number of Questions	Passing Percentage
F1	Navigation at the support level		
C1	Contribute to a safe navigational watch	20	70%
C2	Contribute to berthing, anchoring and other mooring operations	20	70%
F2	Cargo handling and stowage at the support level		
C3	Contribute to the handling of cargo and stores	20	70%
F3	Controlling the operation of the ship and care for persons on board at the support level		
C4	Contribute to the safe operation of deck equipment and machinery	20	70%
C5	Apply occupational health and safety precautions	20	70%
C6	Apply precautions and contribute to the prevention of pollution of the marine environment	20	70%
C7 *	Operate survival craft and rescue boats	T & A	
F4	Maintenance and repair at the support level		
C8	Contribute to shipboard maintenance and repair	20	70%
	TOTAL	140	

* T & A = Training and Assessment Documentary Evidence

Notes:

1. There are 8 competences in the theoretical examination for rating as Able Seafarer Deck.

In addition, C7 (*) shall be evidenced by approved training and experience related thereto, in accordance with Section A-VI of the STCW Code.

2. Each competence is examined, and shall be passed, independently.
3. A candidate may choose as many competences as he intends to be examined on, upon filing the application.
4. A candidate who fails 3 or more competences in one sitting may not apply for a resit within a 1-month period (The 3-1 Rule).
5. A candidate who fails in a certain competence shall not be allowed to resit on the same day.
6. A candidate who fails in the same competence 3 times, shall not be allowed to re-sit for that competence, until upon showing proof of approved sea service for a period of not less than 1 month, with a certification from the ship's master that the candidate has undergone on board experience relating to that particular competence (The 3-1 Rule); or approved training or refresher program relating to that particular competence;
7. A candidate shall pass in all the competences with theoretical examination within a period not exceeding 2 years (24 months).

**GUIDE FOR THE PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCE FOR
RATINGS AS ABLE SEAFARER DECK**

	Competence	Number of Exercises
F1	Navigation at the support level	
C1	Contribute to a safe navigational watch	1
C2	Contribute to berthing, anchoring and other mooring operations	2
F2	Cargo handling and stowage at the support level	
C3	Contribute to the handling of cargo and stores	1
F3	Controlling the operation of the ship and care for persons on board at the support level	
C4	Contribute to the safe operation of deck equipment and machinery	3
C5	Apply occupational health and safety precautions	1
C6	Apply precautions and contribute to the prevention of pollution of the marine environment	1
C7 *	Operate survival craft and rescue boats	T & A
F4	Maintenance and repair at the support level	
C8	Contribute to shipboard maintenance and repair	1
	TOTAL	8

* T & A = Training and Assessment Documentary Evidence

Notes:

- There are 8 competences in the practical assessment for rating as Able Seafarer Deck.
In addition, C7 (*) shall be evidenced by approved training and experience related thereto, in accordance with Section A-VI of the STCW Code.
- Each competence is examined, and shall be passed, independently.
- A candidate may choose as many competences as he intends to be examined on, upon filing the application.
- A candidate who fails 3 or more competences in one sitting may not apply for a re-sit within a 1-month period (The 3-1 Rule).
- A candidate who fails in a certain competence shall not be allowed to resit on the same day.
- A candidate who fails in the same competence 3 times, shall not be allowed to re-sit for that competence, until upon showing proof of approved sea service for a period of not less than 1 month, with a certification from the ship's master that the candidate has undergone on board experience relating to that particular competence (The 3-1 Rule); or approved training or refresher program relating to that particular competence;
- A candidate shall pass in all the competences with theoretical examination within a period not exceeding 2 years (24 months).
- The full practical assessment is subject to the validation of the board of examiners.