



Marine Notice 14/2016

Revalidation of Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency

Purpose

This Marine Notice draws the attention of vessel operators, masters, officers, ratings, seafarer training organisations, coastal pilots and industry organisations to the fact that many Australian certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency will expire on 31 December 2016.

AMSA notes that a large number of seafarers are yet to apply to have their certificates revalidated beyond this date and to avoid their certificates becoming invalid, AMSA strongly encourages certificate holders to not leave this until the last moment. Certificate holders should also be aware that for certificates expiring on 31 December 2016, revalidating in advance of this date will deliver a new expiry date five years from 31 December 2016, not from the date of application.

Background

The 2010 (Manila Amendments) to the *International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers*, as amended (STCW), requires ALL seafarers holding STCW certificates (excluding GMDSS Radio Operator Certificates) to demonstrate continued competence by undertaking refresher training every five years. The refresher training required is:

- Sea survival, and
- Firefighting.

This refresher training must be completed in order to revalidate an STCW certificate.

The changes to STCW also contain continued competence requirement for holders of Certificate of Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats.

AMSA notes that a large number of seafarers are yet to meet these requirements.

AMSA is unable to revalidate a STCW certificate beyond 31 December 2016 unless the continued competence training has been completed.

See also Marine Notice 7/2016.

Revalidation requirements

More detail about revalidation of STCW certificates are on the AMSA website in Fact Sheet STCW 06 – Applications – Revalidation of certificates and continued competence. <http://www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/international/fact-sheets/Seafarers/index.asp>

AMSA strongly recommends that seafarers who hold a STCW certificate complete mandatory continued competence training as soon as practical.

AMSA is also aware that certificate holders may think that applying for revalidation of a certificate that expires on 31 December 2016 early will result in their new expiry date being five years from the date of application and that doing this may leave them feeling they have been disadvantaged. AMSA advised this is not the case. Any revalidation application received before 31 December 2016 will deliver a new expiry date that is five years from the current expiry date not application date.

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