



Boatmasters' Licence Regulations: Maritime Studies Qualifications for Boatmasters' Licence applicants and crew members on domestic passenger vessels

Notice to all training centres, operators, masters and crew members of passenger vessels and non-passenger vessels on inland waterways and on limited coastal operations.

*This notice should be read with MSN 1853 (M) and MGN 203 (M).
This MIN expires 11 April 2021.*

Summary

This MIN provides detailed information on using Maritime Studies Qualification (MSQ) units and qualifications as a route to:

- qualifying for a Boatmasters' Licence issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), and
- meeting the requirements for Competent Crew training on domestic passenger vessels.

The contents of this Note will be incorporated in the next amendment to MSN 1853.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Boatmasters' Qualifications, Crew and Hours of Work) Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations") came into force on 4th April 2015. The Regulations aim to underpin safety whilst also making the recruitment of appropriately qualified boatmasters a straightforward process for local operators.
- 1.2 The qualifying requirements for a Boatmasters' Licence (BML) are specified in MSN 1853. The guidance in MGN 203 describes Competent Crew training requirements for crew members (other than boatmasters) serving on domestic passenger vessels.
- 1.3 The Maritime Skills Alliance (MSA) has introduced a suite of Maritime Skills Qualification (MSQ) units tailored to the training requirements of BML holders, crew members of domestic passenger vessels and operators on inland waterways and the



limited coastal area. The units are now available for delivery at UK nautical colleges and training centres.

1.4 Completion of the appropriate MSQ will demonstrate a candidate has met the standard for:

- BML Ancillary Safety Training
- Underpinning Knowledge oral for Tier 1 Level 1 Licences
- Underpinning Knowledge for Tier 1 Level 2 Licences
- Underpinning Knowledge for Specialist Operations Endorsements
- Competent Crew Training

1.5 Course completion certificates and Candidate Unit Summaries for MSQs will be issued to candidates by the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) on successful completion of a taught programme.

2. Diploma in Maritime Studies: Rivers, Inland Waterways and Limited Distances to Sea

2.1 Holders of the Diploma in Maritime Studies will have met the standard for:

- Ancillary Safety Training (Tidal and Non-Tidal)
- Underpinning Knowledge for Tier 1 Level 1
- Underpinning Knowledge for Tier 1 Level 2

2.2 Individual units leading to the award of this qualification are listed at Annex A.

3. Certificate in Maritime Studies: Boatmaster for Non-Tidal Inland Waterways

3.1 Holders of the Certificate in Maritime Studies will have met the standard for:

- Underpinning Knowledge for Tier 1 Level 1

3.2 Individual units leading to the award of this qualification are listed at Annex A.

4. MSQ units for Specialist Operations Endorsements

4.1 Holders of the Diploma and Certificate in Maritime Studies can also study additional units which will demonstrate the holder has met the standard for underpinning knowledge for the following endorsements:

- General Cargo
- Oil Cargo
- Chemical Cargo
- Liquified Gas Cargo
- General Passenger Operations
- Large Passenger Vessel
- Dredging
- Towing and Pushing
- Radar
- Ro-Ro Operations

4.2 Individual units for each additional endorsement are listed at Annex A.



5. Award in Maritime Studies: Use of Safety Equipment on Domestic Vessels

5.1 Holders of this Award in Maritime Studies will have met the standard for:

- Ancillary Safety Training (Tidal and Non-Tidal)

5.2 Individual units leading to the award of this qualification are listed at Annex A.

6. Award in Maritime Studies: Competent Crew on Domestic Vessels

6.1 Holders of this award in Maritime Studies will have met the standard for:

- Competent Crew Training

6.2 Individual units leading to the award of this qualification are listed at Annex A.

6.3 This Award in Maritime Studies is also suitable for competent crew training on domestic vessels other than domestic passenger vessels.

7. MCA requirements for a BML

7.1 All applicants will continue to be required to successfully pass a practical boat handling test before their generic licence can be issued.

7.2 All applicants for Tier 1 licences must complete a Training Record Book (MSF 4367).

7.3 All applicants will continue to be required to demonstrate that they have completed the relevant qualifying service time (QST) for the licence they have applied for.

7.4 Holding the relevant MSQ unit for a specialist operations endorsement does not exempt an applicant from completing a practical test to hold the endorsement. Practical tests may be required so the applicant can demonstrate their ability to apply the underpinning knowledge required to hold the relevant endorsement.

8. Application procedure for a BML

8.1 Applicants must submit their original SQA certificate and the Candidate Unit Summary which accompanies the certificate with their application form. The completed application form should be sent to their local MCA Marine Office.

8.2 If the applicant needs to submit their application before their SQA certificate is available they can be issued with a letter of attainment by the nautical college or training centre on successful completion of their studies.

8.3 A template letter of attainment is available at Annex B. A letter of attainment is issued at the nautical college or training centre's discretion. When issued, it must be on headed paper and list all units that have been completed.

8.4 New entrants should complete MSF 4364 and include all relevant documents listed on the form.



- 8.5 Existing licence holders using MSQs to upgrade their licence should submit MSF 4370 and include all relevant documents listed on the form.

9. Competent Crew training portfolios

- 9.1 A copy of a crew member's SQA certificate and Candidate Unit Summary must be kept with their training portfolio. This is required to demonstrate that the crew member has met the standard required to be considered competent crew on a domestic passenger vessel.
- 9.2 Owners, operators, masters and crew of domestic passenger vessels should refer to MGN 203 for full details of minimum levels of training required for crew on domestic passenger vessels.

10. Accreditation of prior learning

- 10.1 An applicant with relevant prior knowledge and experience can have it mapped against the requirements for individual units.
- 10.2 It will be the responsibility of the college or training centre to assess the applicant's knowledge and experience as part of the taught programme the applicant is following. The SQA can advise on its requirements for recognition of prior learning.
- 10.3 This applies to applicants seeking to progress from a Tier 1 Level 1 BML to a Tier 1 Level 2 BML, and from a Tier 1 Level 2 BML to a STCW Reg. II/3 <500GT Near Coastal Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competency.

11. Nautical colleges and training centres

- 11.1 Any nautical college or training centre interested in offering taught programmes leading to the award of any of the qualifications described in this note should contact the SQA using the contact details below:

The Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building
58 Robertson Street
Glasgow
G2 8DQ

0303 333 0330
mycentre@sqa.org.uk

- 11.2 A list of nautical colleges and training centres approved by the SQA to offer MSQs is available on the MSA website at www.maritimeskills.org

12. Career progression using MSQ units

- 12.1 MSQ units are transferable across the UK maritime sector and are acceptable towards a number of seagoing and non-seagoing certificates required by the MCA.



- 12.2 MSQ units which correspond to the training required by the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) will be acceptable in lieu of the relevant Ancillary Safety Training required to hold a BML.

STCW Basic Training	BML Ancillary Safety Training
Personal Survival Techniques STCW A-VI/1-1	Personal Survival & Water Safety
Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting STCW A-VI/1-2	Fire Safety
Elementary First Aid STCW A-VI/1-3	First Aid

13. Further Information

- 13.1 Further information on the contents of this Note can be obtained from the MCA at the address given overleaf.



More Information

Seafarer Training and Certification Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/12
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9231
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9252
e-mail: boatmaster@mcga.gov.uk

Website Address: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency

General Inquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

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MSQ Units and MCA Equivalentents

MSQ Units for Diploma in Maritime Studies: Rivers, Inland Waterways and Limited Distances to Sea

UNIT TITLE	MSQ CODE	MCA
Maritime Employment, Environmental and Health and Safety Practice	1	Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities STCW A-VI/1-4
Maritime Sector Overview	2	Tier 1 Level 2 Underpinning Knowledge
Vessel Ropework, Anchoring and Mooring Operations	3	
Securing a Vessel for Passage	4	
Vessel Construction and Stability	5	
Basic Vessel Engineering Systems	7	
Maintaining Vessel Machinery for Safe Operations	8	
Vessel Repair and Maintenance	9	
Assist with a Vessel's Navigational Watch	10	
Vessel Navigation and Tides	11	
Survival in the Water during Maritime Emergencies	13	Personal Survival Techniques STCW A-VI/1-1
Vessel Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW) or Unit 17 ¹	14	Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting STCW A-VI/1-2
Maritime Security	15	Tier 1 Level 2 Underpinning Knowledge
Emergency First Aid in Response to Maritime Accidents or Medical Emergency	16	Elementary First Aid STCW A-VI/1-3
Maritime Fire Prevention and Fire Actions or Unit 14	17	BML Fire Safety Ancillary Safety Training
Communicate using Equipment and Visual Means	20	Tier 1 Level 2 Underpinning Knowledge
Maintain your Work Practice	21	

¹ Completion of Unit 14 or Unit 17 will meet the requirements for award of the Diploma in Maritime Studies. Applicants are not required to complete both Units to hold the Diploma.



MSQ Units for Certificate in Maritime Studies: Boatmaster for Non-Tidal Inland Waterways

UNIT TITLE	MSQ CODE	MCA
Emergency Response on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	105	Tier 1 Level 1 Underpinning Knowledge
Engineering Operations on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	106	
Health and Safety, including Prevention of Pollution, on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	107	
Navigation and Bridge Watchkeeping on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	108	
Seamanship Operations on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	109	
Ship Knowledge on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	110	
Vessel Manoeuvring and Handling on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	111	

MSQ Units for BML Specialist Operations Endorsements

UNIT TITLE	MSQ CODE	MCA
Control Dry Cargo Operations on Domestic Vessels	98	General Cargo
Control Large Domestic Passenger Vessel Operations	99	Large Passenger Vessel
Control Passenger Operations on Domestic Vessels	101	General Passenger Operations
Control Dredging Operations on Domestic Vessels	102	Dredging
Control of Towing and Pushing Operations on Domestic Vessels	103	Towing and Pushing
Use of Radar for Safe Navigation and Collision Avoidance on Domestic and Code Vessels	104	Radar
Chemical Tanker Cargo Operations on Domestic Vessels	133	Chemical Cargoes
Liquefied Gas Cargo Operations on Domestic Vessels	134	Liquefied Gas Cargoes
Oil Tanker Cargo Operations on Domestic Vessels	135	Oil Cargoes
Roll On – Roll Off Operations On Domestic Vessels	136	Ro-Ro Operations



MSQ Units for Award in Maritime Studies: Use of Safety Equipment on Domestic Vessels

UNIT TITLE	MSQ CODE	MCA
Use of Safety Equipment on Domestic Vessels	112	Ancillary Safety Training

MSQ Units for Award in Maritime Studies: Competent Crew on Domestic Passenger Vessels

UNIT TITLE	MSQ CODE	MCA
Contribute to Routine Crew Operations on Domestic Vessels	113	Competent Crew Training
Contribute to Emergency Response on Domestic Vessels	114	



Template College/Training Centre Notification

Name of college
Address

Notification of Attainment

This is to confirm that:

Student Name:
Student Date of Birth:
SCN:

has completed an approved course of training leading to the award of (Insert name of qualification) on (Insert date) and has meet the required standard in the following Maritime Studies Qualification:

(Units to be listed here)

Enquiries relating to this letter should be addressed to the issuing college using the contact details above.

Authorised signatory:

Position:

Date:

