

Marine Notice No. 36 of 2015

Amended 23/07/2015

Notice to all Shipowners, Ship Operators, Seafarers and QQI Level 6 Cookery Training Centres

Maritime Labour Convention 2006

Ship's Cook Certificate; Recognition of Ship's Cook Certificate; and Food and Catering Requirements

Ireland has ratified the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006). The Convention will come into force in Ireland on the 21st July 2015. This Marine Notice outlines how Ireland applies Regulation 3.2.3 of the Convention in respect of training and qualifications of Ships' Cooks and Regulation 3.2 on Food and Catering.

This Marine Notice should be read in conjunction with [S.I. No. 374 of 2014](#), the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Accommodation, Recreational Facilities, Food, Catering and Ships' Cooks) Regulations 2014, and with reference to the ILO publication "[Guidelines on the training of ships' cooks](#)" (MESC/2013/9).

Ship's Cook Certificate

In accordance with Regulation 25(1) of S.I. No. 374 of 2014, the shipowner and the master of a seagoing Irish ship which ordinarily operates with a crew complement of 10 or more seafarers shall ensure that the ship does not proceed to sea or, if already at sea, remain at sea, unless a qualified ship's cook is on board.

Approval of institutions, training courses and certificates

In accordance with Regulation 26 the following cookery schools and institutions are considered to be approved:- **Cookery Schools and Institutions accredited under "Quality and Qualifications Ireland" (QQI) to issue QQI Level 6, Certificate in Professional Cookery.** See QQI's website: <http://www.qqi.ie/Pages/Home.aspx>.

Persons holding certification prior to the introduction of the QQI (formerly Fetac) Level 6 standard (such as the appropriate City and Guilds qualifications) issued in Ireland may be considered on application. Holders of such qualifications will be asked to provide proof from the QQI or an approved course provider that the qualifications are equivalent to a QQI Level 6, Certificate in Professional Cookery.

Recognition of existing certificates of competency

In accordance with Regulation 32, holders of qualifications issued in accordance with S.I. No. 276 of 1987, Merchant Shipping (Certification of Ships' Cooks) Regulations, 1987 shall be deemed to be holders of a ship's cook certificate issued under S.I. No. 374 of 2014.

Person responsible for preparing the food with a crew complement of less than 10 persons

In accordance with Regulation 25(3), all persons preparing food shall be trained in practical cookery, personal hygiene, food safety, food storage, stock control and environmental protection, and catering health and safety. Personnel involved in preparing and handling food are required to be appropriately trained in HACCP systems.

Recognition of Ship's Cook Certificate issued by another State

In accordance with Regulation 31, the Minister may recognise a certificate of qualification issued by or under the authority of the Government of another state that is a party to the Convention or to the Certification of Ships' Cooks Convention 1946 where the Minister is satisfied that the level of qualification attained and the standard of training are in compliance with the requirements of the Convention or the Certification of Ships' Cooks Convention 1946, and equivalent to those required for the issue of a ship's cook certificate under S.I. No. 374 of 2014.

Food and Catering

In accordance with Regulation 20(3), attention is drawn to the ILO publication "Guidelines on the training of ships' cooks", which provide guidance relating to the storage, preparation and handling of food and drinking water, and working practices which adhere to the basic principles of personal hygiene and food safety.

The Safety Management System (SMS) of the vessel shall outline how the vessel complies with National Legislation in food safety and in particular the application of HACCP (Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point) systems.

Attention is drawn to the requirements of EU Regulation 852 of 2004 [Regulation \(EC\) No.852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs](#) and the website of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland <https://www.fsai.ie/>.

Guidance notes

See Guidance Notes attached to this Marine Notice for details of the process to be followed to acquire application forms for a Ship's Cook Certificate or a Certificate of Equivalent Competency, along with details of the criteria required to obtain these certificates.

GUIDANCE NOTES

1. GENERAL

S.I. No. 374 of 2014, Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Accommodation, Recreational Facilities, Food, Catering and Ships' Cooks) Regulations 2014 provides for the issue of Ships' Cooks Certificates.

Provision is also made for the recognition of Ships' Cooks Certificates issued by, or under the authority of, the Government of other states that are parties to the Convention, or to the Certification of Ships' Cooks Convention 1946 (No. 69), provided the Minister is satisfied that the level of qualification attained meets the required standard.

In addition to the qualifying criteria listed below, you are required to provide proof of an offer of employment on an Irish vessel by way of a covering letter from the owner or operator of the vessel.

On Irish flagged vessels, companies may employ a person with a Ship's Cook Certificate issued by, or under the authority of, the Government of other states that are parties to the Convention or to the Certification of Ships' Cooks Convention 1946 (No. 69), without recognition for a period not exceeding three months. Proof of application for a Certificate of Equivalent Competency should be retained on board.

2. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

In order to apply for a Ship's Cook Certificate you must:

- Have completed **in Ireland an approved QQI Level 6** training course for cooks at an approved cookery school or other approved institution in Ireland or an approved training course in trade cookery or cookery in Ireland, passed the appropriate examination, and have been issued an approved certificate or other approved document in respect of the training course undertaken; and
- Have served for not less than one month at sea. Details of sea service may be provided in a Discharge Book or alternatively as other certificates signed by the master or owner of ships in which you have served; and
- Hold a valid Seafarer's Medical Certificate (*see Marine Notice No. 38 of 2014 for a list of approved doctors in Ireland*); and
- Hold a Certificate of Proficiency in Personal Survival Techniques (STCW A-VI/1-1); and
- Hold a Certificate of Proficiency in Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW A-VI/1-2); and
- Hold a Certificate of Proficiency in Elementary First Aid (STCW A-VI/1-3); and
- Hold a Certificate of Proficiency in Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (STCW A-VI/1-4); and
- Be 18 years of age or older.

3. PHOTOGRAPHS

Your application must be accompanied by two identical passport-type photographs. The photographs should be taken full face, without a hat, and should be printed on normal photographic paper. The reverse side of each photograph should be signed by you.

4. NOMINATED CONTACT

For data protection purposes your application, or the status of your application, may not be discussed with any other party without your prior consent. Should you envisage another party making inquiries with this Department on your behalf regarding the status of an application submitted by you (i.e. should you be away at sea), then please provide details of that Nominated Contact.

5. APPLICATION METHODS

A. By Post

It is in your interest to use Registered Post. This Department will not accept responsibility for documents lost in the post. Complete your application form as required, remembering to attach all the supporting documents. Post your application to the Mercantile Marine Office.

B. In Person

Complete your application form as required, remembering to include all the supporting documents. The public office opening hours of the Mercantile Marine Office are:

Monday – Friday Between 10:00 am – 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm

Applications, whether submitted by post or in person, will normally be processed and returned by registered post within 10 working days.

6. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICE

For additional guidance and to receive an application form for a Ship's Cook Certificate or a Certificate of Equivalent Competency, please contact the:

Mercantile Marine Office,
Maritime Services Division,
Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2,
Ireland.

Tel: + 353 (0)1 678 3480

Email: mmo@dtas.ie

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland.

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For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3400.
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3418.
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Maritime Safety Policy Division, Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland.
email: marinenotices@dtas.ie or visit us at: www.dttas.ie