

Marine Notice No. 15 of 2015

English language proficiency requirements for Certificates of
 Competency and for recognition of professional qualifications
 for Irish flagged fishing vessels

*NOTICE TO OWNERS, OPERATORS, MANAGERS, SKIPPERS AND
 OFFICERS OF FISHING VESSELS.*

This Marine Notice is issued in accordance with the Fishing Vessels (Certification of Deck Officers and Engineer Officers) Regulations 1988, [S.I. No. 289 of 1988](#) and for the purposes of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC) Regulations 2008, [S.I. No. 139 of 2008](#). This Marine Notice amends the Requirements, Syllabuses and Specimen Papers for Deck Officers and Marine Engineer Officers in relation to English language proficiency. The standards as amended in the following publications will also apply for the purposes of the recognition of professional qualifications.

Amendment to Departmental Publications:

- “Examinations for Certificates of Competency for Fishing Vessels. Deck Officer Requirements, Syllabuses and Specimen Papers.” and,
- “Examinations for Certificates of Competency for Fishing Vessels. Engineer Officer Requirements, Syllabuses and Specimen Papers.”.

The following amendments are to be made in both of the above documents:

Delete the existing text at section 2.15 and insert:

“2.15 Applicants for a Certificate of Competency for fishing vessels issued by the Government of Ireland are required to show an acceptable level of proficiency in the English language in written, oral and aural form, or for the recognition of professional qualifications. One of the following may be accepted as demonstrating this level of proficiency in English.

- **Marlins Test**
 A pass in the Marlins English Language Computer Test at an approved Marlins Test Centre. Approved Marlins test centres are available on the Marlin company home page <http://www.marlins.co.uk>

The minimum acceptable pass marks (to be submitted on a Marlins approved centre stamped computer printout) are as follows:

Deck Officers	Engineering Officers
Senior Deck Officers (Management level) 90%	Senior Engineering Officers (Management level) 80%
Junior Deck Officers (Operational level) 80%	Junior Engineering Officers (Operational level) 70%

In addition, as the Marlins English Language Computer Test does not cover oral English, evidence of a satisfactory level of oral English must be demonstrated. Oral English must be assessed at a centre recognised by the Department of Transport. In order to be recognised, assessors should forward details of their credentials, qualifications and competency in the English language to:

Marine Survey Office
 Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport
 Leeson Lane
 Dublin 2
 Ireland

Ph: +353 1 6783400
 Fax: + 353 1 6783409
 Email: mso@dtas.ie

The recommended criteria (given at section A below) and the checklist (given at section B) should be used each time an oral assessment of an individual's level of competency in the English language is made. A copy of the checklist is to be retained by the company and a copy of the checklist (together with any other certificates required e.g. Marlins) is to be submitted to:

Marine Survey Office
 Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport
 Leeson Lane
 Dublin 2

Ph: +353 1 6783400
 Fax: + 353 1 6783409
 Email: mso@dtas.ie

A pass in the Marlins English Language Computer Test at an approved Marlins Test Centre, as outlined above and in addition, pass in the ISF Marlins Test of Spoken English (TOSE) at an approved Marlins Test Centre. The TOSE complements the computer-based test. Approved Marlins test centres for the English Language Computer Test and the TOSE are available on the Marlin company home page <http://www.marlins.co.uk>. The minimum acceptable pass marks (to be submitted on a Marlins approved centre stamped computer printout) for the Marlins combined test scoring system is as follows:

Level/Department	ISF Marlins English computer test Minimum acceptable score	Test of Spoken English (TOSE) Minimum acceptable TOSE result (overall)	Minimum acceptable combined score
<u>Management & Operational Level</u>			
<i>Navigational Dept.</i>			
Master/Skipper	90%	Upper Intermediate	86%
Other Officers	80%	Intermediate	72%
<i>Engineering Dept.</i>			
Chief Engineer Officer	80%	Intermediate	72%
Other Engineer Officers	80%	Lower Intermediate	62%

OR

- Hold an STCW Certificate of Competency as Master, deck or engineer officer for which the examinations were conducted wholly in English; **OR**

- Hold an Irish or UK Fishing Vessel Certificate of Competency as Skipper, deck or engineer officer for which the examinations were conducted wholly in English; **OR**
- Hold an English Language test certificate that is comparable to or exceeds the level of Marlins as detailed below (e.g. IELTS Level 6, Berlitz Language School level 2+ endorsed by the company, TOEFL for admission to US University); **OR**
- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language may be dealt with on a case by case basis by the Examiner (e.g. evidence of degree or diploma where the course and examinations are conducted through English).

The same English language proficiency standards apply when assessing applications for the recognition of professional qualifications as allowed for under EU legislation ([Directive 2005/36/EC](#) refers, as transposed by the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC) Regulations [S.I. No. 139 of 2008](#)).

Section A

RECOMMENDED CRITERIA FOR ENGLISH ASSESSMENTS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY FOR FISHING VESSELS

WHEN TO USE

The MARLINS English Language Computer Test for Seafarers/Fishers does not cover oral or spoken English. The assessment method outlined below is for use for applicants for Certificates of Competency (CoC) for Fishing Vessels and is to be used in addition to the MARLINS English Language Computer Test. The checklist should be used to confirm standards of English and as an auditable record for CoC applicants.

THE ASSESSMENT

This is to be conducted on a one-to-one basis with a native English speaker ('the assessor'). Where possible the assessments should be tape-recorded. It should consist of three separate sections of approximately one hour in duration altogether. Where there is doubt as to whether certain criteria are being met there may be a need to retry during the assessment.

Section 1 - oral interview

This should cover general topics, for example career to date, future plans. The questions should enable and encourage discursive responses allowing the seafarer/fisher the chance to ask questions or seek clarification.

Section 2 - live listening/comprehension

The assessor should, at a steady pace, read a passage lasting 3-5 minutes of a general maritime nature, e.g. an incident or a procedure. The seafarer/fisher may take notes throughout (in their own language if preferred). They should be allowed 2-3 minutes to look over their notes and then be asked to describe the incident in their own words, summarising the main points.

Section 3 - specific/job focused communications

This section needs to be tailored to the vocabulary relating to the specific functions to be undertaken by the seafarer/fisher. This may need to include listening to radio messages, loudspeaker announcements, and should certainly include the testing of comprehension and communication of the type of orders, statements and requests that the seafarer/fisher is likely to hear or have to make.

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

These criteria are to help establish levels of listening and speaking abilities and are to be filled-in each time an assessment is made and in all CoC applications to confirm established competence. The criteria are to be used as a checklist and where the assessor decides that one/some are not met that is to be noted for the record against the criterion (a tick for met and a cross for not met). It will be for the assessor to decide whether failure to meet any of the criteria means the seafarer's/fisher's level of English would not be sufficient to carry out their functions safely and effectively. The completed criteria sheet and, where available, the tape-recording will form the basis of the documentation required for audit.

Section B

CRITERIA CHECKLIST (insert \surd for met or **x** for not met)

Speaking

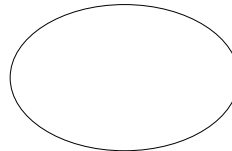
- 1. Clarity - language is sufficiently clear and accurate to be understood by native and non-native speakers of English; any inaccuracies, faults in intonation or hesitation do not impede comprehension of the points being made.
- 2. Initiation of dialogue - there is evidence of the seafarer/fisher not simply echoing or responding, but also of taking the conversation forward, asking questions and raising other issues.
- 3. Vocabulary - the seafarer/fisher can speak about their main job functions and communicate in both familiar and unfamiliar situations; - their vocabulary is extensive enough to allow some flexibility of expression, and is appropriate to the context/topic.

Listening

- 4. The seafarer/fisher shows he/she can understand the overall theme in ways other than repeating back to the examiner word for word.
- 5. Key points can be identified.
- 6. Inferences and conclusions can be drawn.
- 7. The seafarer/fisher can demonstrate understanding of work-related communications delivered in a variety of registers and in varying degrees of complexity.

Comments

Company Stamp



Company assessment

I can confirm that the standard of English of

..... (name)

..... (function)

was assessed today.....(date)

and was found to be acceptable/not acceptable

by.....(signature).....(print name)

date

Assessor Details

Name.....Company.....

Signature.....Address.....

.....”

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

11/05/2015

<p>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</p>
