



Marine Notice No. 52 of 2024

Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers, and Seafarers

This Marine Notice supersedes Marine Notice No.59 of 2023

Schedule of Examinations for Certificate of Competency for Deck Officers, Marine Engineer Officers, Skippers, and Second Hands September 2024 – July 2025

The list of dates for the Department of Transport examinations for Certificates of Competency as Deck Officers, Marine Engineer Officers, Electrotechnical Officers, Skippers, and Second Hands from **September 2024** until **July 2025** are set out in the Appendix attached to this Notice.

Applicants should note the following:

1. GENERAL

- (i) All examinations will commence on the Monday (or where there is a **Public Holiday**, on the Tuesday) of the scheduled week. Examination timetables should be checked with the relevant college prior to attending.
- (ii) Additional examinations may be held, and candidates should check with the college for an up-to-date schedule.
- (iii) The Engineer Officer Examination dates are under review; applicants should contact the National Maritime College for dates of examinations.
- (iv) Detailed guidance can be found in the most current Exam Directions available on seafarers.ie where the full text of the Directions as to the Examination of Deck Officers under the Merchant Shipping Acts and the Examination of Engineer Officers is available in .pdf format. Anyone seeking to obtain a Certificate of Competency (Merchant Marine or Fishing) is recommended to read these Directions.

2. APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION

- (i) Applications for examination for a Certificate of Competency or Endorsement should be made to the Examiner of Masters, Mates and Fishermen or the Examiner of Engineers, as appropriate, at the Marine Survey Office, Leeson

Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland **at least six (6) weeks before the date of written examinations.**

An applicant who meets the entry requirements will be issued with a Notice of Eligibility (NOE), which should be produced at the appropriate Examination Centre when applying for a place in the written examinations. This application must be made directly to the Examination Centre concerned, at least **four (4) weeks** prior to the date of the examination.

- (ii) A notice of eligibility will be **valid for 2 years** from the date of issue. Once this period has elapsed the candidate must make a new application.
- (iii) A pass in each of the written examination modules listed on the NOE required for a certificate of competency will remain valid for a period of five years.
- (iv) **Deck Officer STCW Regulation II/1 OOW 500+ Certificate of Competency:**

Candidates for the above examination should provide satisfactory evidence of the following:

- Three years approved sea service (see paragraph 6 below) on seagoing ships of 80 gross tonnage or more which are actively engaged in commercial trading in an acceptable position.
 - Watchkeeping duties under the supervision of the Master or a qualified officer for a period of not less than 6 months.
 - Formal validation from the relevant administrations of the sea service.
 - Formal validation from the relevant company of the sea service (Company contact details to be included).
 - IELTS (International English Language Testing System) to level 6.5 (average) for linguistically demanding training courses. (see paragraph 4 (iv) below).
 - Basic Training under STCW Chapter VI; and,
 - Seafarer Medical Certificate (Eng 11) issued under the provisions of STCW Regulation 1/9 and section A-1/9, and under the International Labour Organisation's Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.
- (v) Candidates will be expected to attend and complete the full training programme at the National Maritime Training College in Ireland, which will include all STCW short courses including GMDSS GOC, AB or Able Seafarer Deck, Irish National Medical Examination and complete an application for examination and receive a NOE prior to being eligible to take written, oral, or signal examinations.

- (vi) Oral examinations for various Certificates of Competency shall be as detailed in the relevant exam directions on seafarers.ie.

3. CENTRES FOR WRITTEN AND SIGNAL EXAMINATIONS FOR DECK OFFICER CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

- (i) For the Merchant Marine, examinations are held at the National Maritime College of Ireland, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork, P43 XV65.
- (ii) For the Fishing Industry, examinations are held at the B.I.M. National Fishery College, Greencastle, Co. Donegal F93 PX32 and at the B.I.M. Regional Fisheries Training Centre, Castletownbere, Co. Cork, P75 EW24.

4. ORAL EXAMINATIONS

- (i) Practical oral examinations will be held by prior appointment and subject to the relevant compliance with paragraph 2 above at the;
- Marine Survey Office,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2,
D02 TR60.

Appointments for oral examinations should be scheduled with the Mercantile Marine Office Tel: + 353 (0)1 678 3480 or email: admin@seafarers.ie.

- (ii) All ancillary courses should be successfully completed as appropriate. **The written examination must be completed and passed in full before sitting the oral examination.**
- (iii) Each candidate will be required to produce proof of name, nationality, and place of birth.
- (iv) Non-native English-speaking candidates and non-EU candidates will be required to provide a verifiable Test Report Form (valid for two years) from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

This test report should show that the applicant has achieved at least an individual test result of 5.5 in the four modules: listening, reading, writing, and speaking, with an overall band score of at least 6.5 in the linguistically demanding academic courses.

- (v) If a candidate fails an oral examination, re-sits may be taken at the following intervals:
- 2nd attempt – at least **2 weeks** after the initial examination.
 - Subsequent attempts – at least **3 months** after the previous attempt.

5. CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN SURVIVAL CRAFT, RESCUE BOATS, AND FAST RESCUE BOATS (STCW Chapter VI/Regulation VI/2)

Examinations are held at the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI), Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork, P43 XV65. Tel: +353 (0)21 433 5600, Fax: +353 (0)21 433 5601, Email: reception@nmci.ie.

6. SEAGOING SERVICE

According to the STCW Convention and Code 1978, as amended:

- **Regulation 1/1:** Seagoing service means service on board a ship relevant to the issue or revalidation of a certificate or other qualification.
- **Section A-1/2:** In approving seagoing service required by the Convention, parties should ensure that the service concerned is relevant to the qualification being applied for, bearing in mind that, apart from the initial familiarisation with service in seagoing ships, the purpose of such service is to allow the seafarer to be instructed in and to practice, under appropriate supervision, those safe and proper seagoing practices, procedures and routines which are relevant to the qualification applied for.

7. WATCHKEEPING CERTIFICATES INCLUDING TESTIMONIALS

Candidates for Certificates of Competency for which service as a watchkeeping officer is required must produce certificates of watchkeeping service, including testimonials on conduct, experience/ability, and behaviour/sobriety, signed by the Masters of the vessels on which they served.

Marine Notice 59 of 2023 is hereby withdrawn.
Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

09/09/2024

Encl: Appendix – Examination Schedule

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60,
Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport

EXAMINATIONS FOR DECK OFFICERS, FISHERMEN AND MARINE ENGINEER OFFICERS
SEPTEMBER 2023 to JULY 2024.

| MONTH | COMMENCING MONDAY | DECK OFFICER | | | ENGINEER OFFICER | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Chief Mate / Master | OOW | FISHING | Chief | Second | OOW/ ETO | FISHING CLASS 1 | FISHING CLASS 2 |
| SEPTEMBER 2024 | 09 | | | | | | | | |
| | 16 | | | | | | | | |
| | 23 | | | Oral Exams | | | | | |
| | 30 | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | | Oral Exams | | |
| OCTOBER 2024 | 07 | | | | | | Oral Exams | | |
| | 14 | Oral Exam | | Oral Exam | | | | | |
| | 21 | | | | | | | | |
| | 28 | | | | | | | | |
| NOVEMBER 2024 | 04 | | | | | | | | |
| | 11 | | | | | | | | |
| | 18 | | | | | | | | |
| | 25 | | | Oral Exam | | | | | |
| DECEMBER 2024 | 02 | | | | | | | | |
| | 09 | | | Oral Exams | | | | Oral Exams | Oral Exams |
| | 16 | | | | | | | | |
| | 23 | | | | | | | | |
| | 30 | | | | | | | | |
| JANUARY 2025 | 06 | | | | | | | | |
| | 13 | | | | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | |
| | 20 | | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | | | |
| | 27 | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | Oral Exam | | | | | |

| MONTH | COMMENCING MONDAY | DECK OFFICER | | | ENGINEER OFFICER | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Chief Mate / Master | OOW | FISHING | Chief | Second | OOW/ ETO | FISHING CLASS 1 | FISHING CLASS 2 |
| FEBRUARY 2025 | 06 | | | | | | | | |
| | 10 | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | | | |
| | 17 | | | | | | | | |
| | 24 | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | | | | |
| MARCH 2025 | 03 | | | | | | | | |
| | 10 | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | | | | |
| | 17 | | | | | | | | |
| | 24 | | | | | | | | |
| | 31 | | | | | | | | |
| APRIL 2025 | 07 | | | | | | | Oral Exams | Oral Exams |
| | 14 | | | | | | | | |
| | 21 | | | | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | |
| | 28 | | | Oral Exams | | | Oral Exams | | |
| MAY 2025 | 05 | | | | | | | | |
| | 12 | | | | | | | | |
| | 19 | | | | | | | | |
| | 26 | | | Oral Exams | | | | | |
| JUNE 2025 | 02 | | | | | | | | |
| | 09 | | | Oral Exams | | | | Oral Exams | Oral Exams |
| | 16 | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | | | | |
| | 23 | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | | | |
| | 30 | | | | | | | | |
| JULY 2025 | 07 | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | Oral Exams | | | Oral Exams | | |
| | 21 | | | Oral Exams | | | Oral Exams | | |
| | 28 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |