

High Speed Craft Consultative Committee

Determinations for River Trade Officers – Certificates of Competency and River Trade Certificates and Type Rating Certificates

Purpose

To create the determinations in respect of the standards of competency to be attained and other conditions to be satisfied for the grant of a particular class of certificate to an officer serving solely coastal-going ships¹ which include cross-boundary High Speed Crafts.

Background

2. The existing requirements related to the river trade Certificate of Competency (“**RTC**”) and Type Rating Certificate (“**TRC**”) for officers are stipulated in the “Certificates of Competency and Licences for Marine Engineer Officers and Electro-technical Officers Determinations (2012 Edition)”, and the “Certificates of Competency and Licences for Deck Officers Determinations (2012 Edition)” (collectively known as “**2012 Determinations**”). In 2018, the seagoing officers’ requirements had been separated out and formed individual seagoing determinations whereas the river trade (“**RT**”) officers’ requirements has been remained in the 2012 Determinations till present.

¹ “coastal-going ship” means any ship employed exclusively in trading, or going, between any place or places situated within river trade limits

Creating RT Determination

3. Since the 2012 Determinations contain the obsolete requirements seagoing officers and the valid requirements of RT officers, it is proposed to create individual RT Determinations by extracting the RT requirements from the 2012 Determinations. Taking this opportunity, necessary RT requirements updates to keep pace with the time are proposed to be included in the RT Determination as detailed in the following parts of this document.

Officially Waiving the STCW 5-yearly Refresher Course for RT Officers

4. The proposal of substituting the STCW 5-yearly refresher course training for river trade officers with adequate sea service or qualification (i.e. 12 months sea service during every 5-year, or valid TRC) was endorsed by members in the HSCCC meeting held on 17 December 2013. Over the years, verification mechanism such as ISM audits, the 2-yearly TRC revalidation and the 5-yearly RTCoC revalidation were proven to be effective in ensuring the competence of seafarers who work on board HSC and coastal-going vessels are maintained with respect to the STCW A-VI / 1.3, 2.5 and 3.5 requirements. Therefore, the refresher training waiver will be made official in the proposed RT Determinations.

Early Participation of RTCoC Examination

5. A candidate obtaining two third (2/3) of the required sea service for the issue of RTCoC will be accepted to take part in the RTCoC examination, replacing the current full sea service prerequisite requirement. Upon passing the examination and obtaining the remaining sea service, RTCoC can be issued.

Other Editorial Amendments

6. Furthermore, several editorial amendments as presented in Annex 1 of this paper are proposed to be reflected in the RT Determinations.

The Proposed River Trade Determinations

7. The new RT Determinations will be named “River Trade Certificates of Competency and Type Rating Certificates for Marine Engineer Officers’ Determinations (2024 edition)” (**Annex 2**), and the “River Trade Certificates of Competency and Type Rating Certificates for Deck Officers Determinations (2024 edition)” (**Annex 3**) (collectively referred to as “**RT Determinations (2024)**”).

8. The RT Determinations (2024) will supersede the 2012 Determinations and will be published on MD website upon endorsed by the members.

Way Forward

9. Members are invited to provide comments on the RT Determination 2024.

Marine Department

13 September 2024