

CAREERS IN COMPLIANCE - WORKING AT SEA



Introduction

Compliance is the operational Division of Marine Scotland and is responsible for managing the coastal, sea and air assets of Marine Scotland. Its role is to ensure compliance with legislation and regulations in the marine environment around Scotland. Staff are split between Victoria Quay, Atlantic Quay and 18 fishery offices around the coast, and those at sea who crew the Protection and Research Vessels, the latter of which we manage in conjunction with our Science Division.

There are a number of different roles that you can do as part of Marine Scotland Compliance Marine Staff and each one requires a different level of knowledge and experience.

Working at sea

On board our ships there are a number of roles, each requiring different levels of sea-going experience and qualifications as specified by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and then adopted by the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) into UK law. These are all explained in the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers (STCW).

On our ships, the officers and crew are split between three departments: deck, engineering and catering. Deck officers are also qualified British Sea Fishery Officers, meaning they carry out a dual role on board the vessel.

Department: Deck AB/ Seaman/ Petty Officer

An Able Seaman or Efficient Deckhand plays an important role on the bridge. They act as lookout for the Officer of the Watch, who is responsible for navigating the ship, and they also carry out all general deck maintenance on board the vessel, under the direction of the First Officer Executive and Chief Petty Officer. They are also members of the emergency team which means that they have vital role in firefighting lifesaving, damage control and preparing safety equipment on board in the event of an emergency. Lastly, they also assist Boarding Officers when inspecting fishing vessels at sea.

Qualifications / Skills Required:

The entry level is Efficient Deck Hand (EDH) which can lead on to an Able Seaman certificate. Currently the only entry route to EDH is to be sponsored by a shipping company as it requires candidates to undertake time at sea on a merchant ship, as well as some classroom based learning and tuition on seamanship skills.

To obtain an EDH certificate you need: Personal Survival Techniques, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting, Elementary First Aid, Security Duties, Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities, ENG1 seafarer's medical, Navigational Watch Rating Certificate and 12 months sea time on sea going merchant ships.

To obtain an AB certificate you need to hold the following certificates: Personal Survival Techniques, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting, Elementary First Aid, Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities, ENG1 seafarer's medical, Navigational Watch Rating Certificate*, Security Duties, EDH certificate, CPSC & RB (Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats) or CPSC (Certificate of Proficiency in Survival Craft) or an accepted MCA life boat qualification.

At least 24 months sea time in the Deck department, or 36 months as a GP (General Purpose Rating) of at least 12 months on Deck duties, is also required.

***Navigational Watch Rating Certificate** has to be applied for by a UK MCA approved company and can only be obtained onboard a vessel. To obtain this certificate, candidates must have the 4 basic STCW certificates and have completed either or at least 6 months approved sea going sea service in Deck department, or special training and at least 2 months approved sea going service.



Motorman

Motormen are responsible for day to day cleaning, repair and routine maintenance of the engine room onboard the ship.

Qualifications / Skills Required:

The basic level is Motorman, which can lead to PO Motorman. Currently the only entry route to Motorman is to be sponsored by a shipping

company as it requires candidates to undertake time at sea on a merchant ship in order to gain an Engine Room Watch Rating Certificate.

Candidates require the following to work as a Motorman: Personal Survival Techniques, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting, Elementary First Aid, Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities, ENG1 seafarer's medical and Engine Room **Watch Rating Certificate**.*

***Engine Room Watch Rating Certificate** has to be applied for by a UK MCA approved shipping company and can only be obtained onboard a ship. To obtain this certificate, candidates must have the basic STCW certificates and have completed either or at least 6 months approved sea going sea service in the Engine department, or special training and at least 2 months approved sea going service.



Department: Catering Chief Steward/ Cook

On our ships the catering department is formed of the Chief Steward and Cook. The Chief Steward and Cook are responsible for the ordering of all catering supplies and preparing all meals for everyone on board the ship. The Chief Steward is also responsible for the catering budget. The Catering Department is also responsible for the upkeep of the galley and mess.

To go to sea you must hold an ENG1 seafarer's medical and STCW basic safety training consisting of the following courses: Personal Survival Techniques, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting, Elementary First Aid, Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities and security duties. Promotion to Chief Steward is dependent on a successful application and interview process.

Additionally you must hold an ENG1 seafarer's medical and STCW basic safety training consisting of the following courses: Personal Survival Techniques, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting, Elementary

First Aid, Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities and security duties. The ENG1 medical must be carried out by an MCA approved Doctor according to guidelines established by the MCA. Promotion to Chief Steward is dependent on a successful application and interview process.

Department: Deck Deck Officers

The Commanding Officer is ultimately responsible for everything that takes place on board a vessel and is the senior deck officer on board. They are supported by a First Officer Executive, more commonly known in the wider merchant navy industry as Chief Mate, a First Officer Safety and Second Officers. Deck officers are responsible for ensuring the safe navigation of the vessel at sea and the safety of the vessel when in port. They must ensure the vessel is maintained to the highest standards and that all safety and deck equipment remains fully functional. Marine Scotland Deck Officers are also British Sea Fishery Officers which means they are required to board and inspect fishing vessel at sea.

Qualifications / Skills Required:

Deck Officers are required to undertake Merchant Navy Training to work towards an Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competence (CoC). This involves study time at college and sea-time. Training starts by completing STCW basic safety training courses, which cover personal survival techniques, fire prevention, fire fighting, elementary first aid and personal safety and social responsibilities, and they must hold an ENG1 seafarer's medical certificate. Additionally, they require GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress Safety System), Medical First Aid, Advanced Fire Fighting and CPSC & RB (Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats) qualifications. These are usually undertaken as part of a 3 year training programme known as a cadetship.

On successful completion of a cadetship the Deck Officer must continue to complete the required amount of sea time in order to complete further qualifications including the Chief Officer's Certificate of Competency and the Master Mariner Certificate of Competency. On successful

completion of this, the Officer will legally be permitted to sail as Commanding Officer. Practical seagoing experience is also essential before an Officer is finally promoted to Captain and this entire process usually takes around 10 years.

Department: Engineering Marine Engineer

Marine Engineers ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the ship's mechanical, electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic and electrical equipment onboard, including carrying out repairs, inspections and maintenance propulsion systems, refrigeration machinery, desk machinery and passenger systems. The Engineering Department is headed up by a Chief Engineer who supervises the work of the engine room and is assisted by a team Second and Third Engineers.

Qualifications / Skills Required:

Engineering Officers are required to undertake training involving college time and sea time to work towards an Engineering Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competence. They are also required to complete basic safety training courses covering personal survival techniques, fire prevention and firefighting, elementary first aid and personal safety and social responsibilities, and they must hold an ENG1 seafarer's medical certificate. Additionally, they require Medical First Aid, Advanced Fire Fighting and CPSC & RB (Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats) and Security Duties. Many of these basic courses are required to be updated throughout the officer's seagoing career.

Like Deck Officers, Engineering Officers qualifications are usually part of a 3 year training programme, known as a cadetship, where the cadet will complete an academic qualification alongside vocational courses and sea time. On successful completion of a cadetship, the engineering officer must spend further time at sea an return to take further examinations towards their Second Officer Certificate of Competency and then Chief Engineer Certificate Of Competency. This entire process usually takes about 10 years.



To become a fully qualified a Deck or Engineering officer with Marine Scotland there are various entry routes.

Those with existing degrees or relevant experience such as engineering, Royal Navy or fishing personnel will enter the appropriate programme where prior qualifications and skills can be taken account of.

In addition to the academic qualification, trainees obtain an internationally recognised professional qualification. Called the Officer of the Watch (OOW) certificate, it is the 'license to operate' as a professional seafaring officer and to work on board any type of ship anywhere in the world.

Completion of further study and practical seagoing experience will enable junior officers to progress to higher professional qualifications, ultimately allowing them to reach the highest status on board of Master (Captain) or Chief Engineer.

Below is a summary table showing the basic entry requirements for deck and engineering officers:

Course title:	Nautical Science or Marine Engineering
Course type:	HNC/HND (3 / 3½ years)
Entry requirements:	GCSE Grades A-C/National 5 at A or B in English, Maths, a Science based subject and at least one other subject.
Course title:	Marine Operations / Nautical Science / Marine Engineering / Marine Electrical Systems
Course type:	Foundation degree or Scottish Professional diploma (3½ years approx)
Entry requirements:	120 UCAS points in unspecified A Levels or Scottish Highers Plus GCSE / National 5 in the above subjects at A or B /Scottish credit level.
Course title:	BSc (Hons) Merchant Ship Operations or Nautical Science, BEng (Hons) Marine Engineering Applications, or Mechanical & Marine Engineering
Course type:	Honours degree (4 years)
Entry requirements:	Entry is in accordance with the requirements of sponsoring companies and the admission requirements of the universities concerned and will usually require Maths and/or a Science A Level or Scottish Higher.

