

MERCHANT SHIPPING (SEAFARERS) ORDINANCE
(CHAPTER 478)

Certificates of Proficiency
for Ship Security Officers Determinations

(2007 Edition)

Made under Sections 8(1)(b) and 10(1)(b) of the
Merchant Shipping (Seafarers)(Certification of Officers) Regulation, Cap. 478J

**Certificates of Proficiency
for Ship Security Officers Determinations**

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Certificates of Proficiency for Ship Security Officers Determinations

1. Commencement

- 1.1 These Determinations are made by the Seafarers' Authority (the Authority) under powers granted by Section 8(1)(b) and Section 10(1)(b) of the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers)(Certification of Officers) Regulation, Cap. 478J. They shall come into operation on 9 November 2007.

2. Application

- 2.1 These Determinations applies to the following classes of ships which are Hong Kong registered ships engaged on international voyages:-

1. passenger ships, including high speed passenger craft; and
2. any ship which is not a passenger ship, including high speed craft, of 500 gross tonnage or more, except the following classes of ships:-
 - (a) fishing vessels;
 - (b) ships engaged in processing living resources of the sea, including whale and fish factories and aqua farming vessels;
 - (c) specialized ships engaged in research, expeditions or survey;
 - (d) ships propelled by nuclear energy;
 - (e) warships;
 - (f) naval auxiliaries;
 - (g) other vessels owned or operated by a government and used only for non-commercial service.

3. Certification Requirement for Ship Security Officers

- 3.1 With effect from 1 January 2008, every Ship Security Officer designated pursuant to Section 9 of the Merchant Shipping (Security of Ships and Port Facilities) Rules, Cap. 582A, who works on the classes of Hong Kong registered ships to which these Determinations apply, shall hold a Certificate of Proficiency as Ship Security Officer.

4. Issue of Certificate of Proficiency as Ship Security Officer

- 4.1 A Certificate of Proficiency shall be issued as an endorsement to an officer's Hong Kong Certificate of Competency or Hong Kong Licence.

- 4.2 To qualify for the issue of a Certificate of Proficiency as a Ship Security Officer, a candidate must:
- (a) have the qualifying seagoing service of not less than 12 months as an officer; and
 - (b) fulfill any one of the following criteria:
 - (i) has successfully completed a training course for ship security officer approved¹ by the Director of Marine pursuant to the requirements specified in Section A-VI/5 of the STCW Code ; or
 - (ii) demonstrate his/her professional competence acquired before 1 January 2008 by the following²:
 - (A) has approved seagoing service as a ship security officer, for a period of at least six months during the preceding three years; or
 - (B) has performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required in (A) above; or
 - (C) has successfully completed a training course for ship security officer approved previously³ by the Director of Marine.

Remarks:

- ¹ A list of the approved training courses can be found on Marine Department's website; <http://www.mardep.gov.hk>.
- ² Candidates through this type of qualifications for the Certificate of Proficiency must apply before 1 July 2009.
- ³ A list of the training courses previously approved by the Director of Marine can be found on Marine Department's website; <http://www.mardep.gov.hk>

5. Recognition of Certificates Issued by Other Administrations

- 5.1 Officers holding Certificates of Proficiency as Ship Security Officer issued pursuant to Section A-VI/5 of the STCW Code by those parties to the STCW Convention, which Certificates of Competency are recognized for the issue of Hong Kong Licences, are also recognized to be qualified to work as Ship Security Officers on Hong Kong registered ships.

6. Application for Certificate of Proficiency as Ship Security Officer

- 6.1 Application for Certificate of Proficiency as Ship Security Officer should be made, in accordance with the procedures at the Annex to these Determinations, to:

Seafarers' Certification Section
Marine Department
3rd Floor, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road
Central
Hong Kong
Tel. No. : (+852) 2852 3148
Fax No.: (+852) 2541 6754

Certificate of Proficiency as Ship Security Officer

Application Procedures

An officer meeting the requirements specified in the “Certificates of Proficiency for Ship Security Officer Determinations” (the Determinations) may apply to the Hong Kong Marine Department for a Certificate of Proficiency as a Ship Security Officer, which will be issued as an endorsement to his/her Hong Kong Certificate of Competency or Hong Kong Licence, whichever applicable. The application shall be made by completing an application form (M.O.934), which is obtainable from the Seafarers’ Certification Section on the 3rd floor of the Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong, or downloaded from the Marine Department’s website: <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/pdf/mo934.rtf>. The completed application form should be submitted to the Senior Surveyor/Seafarers’ Certification at the above address together with the following:

- a) Documentary proof of :
 - (i) having qualifying sea service of not less than 12 months as an officer; and
 - (ii) either one of the following:
 - (A) successfully completed an approved training course mentioned in Section 4.2(b)(i) of the Determinations; or
 - (B) professional competence as mentioned in Section 4.2(b)(ii) of the Determinations.

(Note: A legible copy certified by the employer as true copy can be accepted in lieu of the original.)
- b) A legible copy of the Hong Kong Certificate of Competency or Hong Kong Licence obtained by the applicant.
- c) The fee for the issue of a Certificate of Proficiency as a Ship Security Officer as an endorsement to an officer’s Hong Kong Certificate of Competency or Hong Kong Licence is HK\$140. All cheques, drafts, orders and remittance for the payment of the fee should be crossed and made payable to “The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” (or the Government of the HKSAR”). Cash should not be sent by post. However, cash payment would be accepted at the counter at the above address during application.