

Government Decree
on the Manning of Ships and Certification of Seafarers
(1797/2009)

Section 1 – *Scope of application*

This Decree applies to seafarers serving on Finnish power-driven ships and to the owners of such ships.

Section 2 – *Definitions*

For the purposes of this Decree:

- 1) *basic safety training* means an entity comprising training in personal survival techniques, fire prevention and fire fighting, elementary first aid, and personal safety and social responsibilities listed in tables A-VI/1-1, A-VI/1-2, A-VI/1-3 and A-VI/1-4 of the STCW Code;
- 2) *GMDSS system* means the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System;
- 3) *sea areas* mean sea areas A1, A2, A3 and A4 within the GMDSS system;
- 4) *propulsion power* means the total maximum continuous rated power of the propeller machinery determined at the coupling flange of the shaft and expressed in kilowatts;
- 5) *power figure* means the figure arrived at by adding up the products of the numerical values of the maximum working pressure and the power of each steam boiler, where working pressure means overpressure, expressed in bars, and power means the thermal energy transmitted to the liquid and the steam in a time unit, expressed in megawatts.

Section 3 – *Application for determination of minimum safe manning levels*

The ship owner shall submit a proposal for the minimum safe manning level of every ship, including an assessment of the planned:

- 1) watch arrangements;
- 2) hours of work or rest;
- 3) trading area(s);
- 4) frequency of port calls and length of voyages to be undertaken;
- 5) mooring and unmooring of the ship;
- 6) cargo to be carried, cargo handling, stowage and securing;
- 7) care for crew and passengers on board;
- 8) operation, maintenance and repair of the ship;
- 9) operations for the protection of the marine environment.

Section 4 – *Principles to be taken into account in determining the minimum safe manning*

In determining the minimum safe manning level of a ship, account shall be taken of whether the master and the chief engineer officer form part of the watch.

Section 5 – *Responsibilities of the owner with regard to the minimum safe manning of ships*

- (1) The owner shall ensure that:
 - 1) each seafarer assigned to any of its ships has the standard of competence required for the capacity;
 - 2) documentation and data on the seafarer's training, competency and experience is accurate and that his or her medical fitness complies with the provisions issued on the medical fitness of seafarers, and that these data have been entered in a record maintained by the owner where the seafarer may view the data;

- 3) seafarers are, in accordance with the owner's written instructions to the master of the ship, familiarized with their specific duties, the ship and the specific equipment they will be using or operating, procedures, safety arrangements, life-saving appliances, and ship characteristics that are relevant to their emergency duties, and that an entry thereon is made in the ship's records; and that
- 4) the ship's complement can effectively co-ordinate their activities in an emergency situation and in performing functions vital to safety or to the prevention or mitigation of pollution.

Section 6 – Master's responsibilities with regard to the safe manning of the ship

- (1) The master shall ensure that the ship's complement and the crew members' performance of their duties on every voyage is such that the following functions may be attended to:
 - 1) safe navigation of the ship from port to port;
 - 2) maintenance of the ship to the extent required for the intended voyage;
 - 3) use and maintenance of navigation, life-saving and fire-fighting equipment and other safety equipment;
 - 4) use and maintenance of machinery, automation, auxiliary controls and communication devices to the extent necessary for the safe navigation of the ship;
 - 5) on a tugboat, the functions required by towage, taking into account the nature of the towing task;
 - 6) safe mooring of the ship; and
 - 7) caring for the crew and other persons on board.
- (2) The master shall ensure that the language proficiency of the crew is sufficient to understand standing orders, and oral and written instructions relating to safety.

Section 7 – Validity of the minimum safe manning document

- (1) Minimum safe manning documents for ships engaged on domestic voyages may be issued for an unlimited period of time.
- (2) Minimum safe manning documents for ships engaged on international voyages may be issued for a maximum of five years.

Section 8 – Requirements for the certification of masters of cargo ships and passenger ships

- (1) The master of a passenger ship of less than 100 gross tonnage, engaged on domestic voyages in a designated and restricted area in trading area I, shall hold a boatmaster's certificate.
- (2) The master of a cargo ship of less than 100 gross tonnage, engaged on domestic voyages in trading area I, shall hold a boatmaster's certificate.
- (3) The master of a cargo ship of less than 100 gross tonnage, engaged on domestic voyages in trading areas II and III, shall have the training of a skipper in domestic service and four months of approved seagoing service. The training and the seagoing service shall be endorsed by a certificate issued by the Finnish Transport Safety Agency.
- (4) The master of a cargo ship of 100 gross tonnage or more but less than 500 gross tonnage, engaged on domestic voyages, shall hold a certificate for skippers in domestic service.
- (5) The master of a passenger ship of less than 300 gross tonnage, engaged on domestic voyages, shall hold a certificate for skippers in domestic service. The master of a passenger ship, engaged on domestic voyages in trading area III, shall, in addition, have twelve months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer or master.
- (6) The master of a passenger ship of 300 gross tonnage or more but less than 500 gross tonnage, engaged on domestic voyages, shall hold a certificate for skippers in domestic service and have twelve months of seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer or master.

- (7) The master of a ship of 500 gross tonnage or more but less than 1,000 gross tonnage, engaged on domestic voyages, shall hold a deck officer certificate. The master of a passenger ship shall, in addition, have twelve months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer or master.
- (8) The master of a ship of 1,000 gross tonnage or more but less than 3,000 gross tonnage, engaged on domestic voyages, shall hold a chief officer certificate or a deck officer certificate and have 36 months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer or 24 months of seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer, at least twelve months of which is approved seagoing service as chief mate.
- (9) The master of a ship of less than 1,000 gross tonnage, engaged on voyages in the Baltic Sea area or on near-coastal voyages, shall hold a deck officer certificate and have twelve months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer. At least six months of the approved seagoing service shall be service on international voyages.
- (10) The master of a ship of 1,000 gross tonnage or more but less than 3,000 gross tonnage shall hold a chief officer certificate, or a deck officer certificate and have 36 months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer, or 24 months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer, at least twelve months of which is approved seagoing service as chief mate. At least twelve months of the approved seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer shall be service on international voyages.
- (11) The master of a ship of 1,000 gross tonnage or more but less than 3,000 gross tonnage, engaged on near-coastal voyages, shall hold a chief officer certificate.
- (12) The master of a ship of less than 500 gross tonnage, engaged on European or worldwide voyages, shall hold a chief officer certificate, or a deck officer certificate and have 36 months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer, or 24 months of seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer, at least twelve months of which shall be service on international voyages.
- (13) The master of a ship of 3,000 gross tonnage or more and the master of a ship of 500 gross tonnage or more, engaged on European voyages or worldwide voyages, shall hold a captain's certificate.

Section 9 – *Requirements for the certification of chief engineer officers of cargo ships and passenger ships*

- (1) The master of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of less than 350 kW propulsion power, engaged on domestic voyages, and on which the location of the machinery controls is such that the ship may be manoeuvred from the conning position, shall hold a boatmaster's certificate.
- (2) The chief engineer officer of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more but less than 750 kW propulsion power, engaged on domestic voyages, shall hold an engine attendant's certificate.
- (3) The chief engineer officer of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more but less than 1,500 kW propulsion power, engaged on domestic voyages, shall hold a watchkeeping engineer's certificate.
- (4) The chief engineer officer of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more but less than 750 kW propulsion power, engaged on voyages in the Baltic Sea area, shall hold an engine attendant's certificate and have at least twelve months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of engineer officer. The chief engineer officer of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more but less than 1,500 kW propulsion power, engaged on voyages in the Baltic Sea area, shall hold a watchkeeping engineer's certificate and have at least twelve months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of watchkeeping engineer.
- (5) The chief engineer officer of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more but less than 1,500 kW propulsion power, engaged on near-coastal

voyages or European voyages, shall hold a watchkeeping engineer's certificate and have at least twelve months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of watchkeeping engineer.

- (6) The chief engineer officer of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more but less than 750 kW propulsion power, engaged on worldwide voyages, shall hold a watchkeeping engineer's certificate and have at least twelve months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of watchkeeping engineer.
- (7) The chief engineer officer of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more but less than 3,000 kW propulsion power, engaged on worldwide voyages, shall hold an engineer officer certificate and have at least six months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of engineer officer.
- (8) The chief engineer officer of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 1,500 kW propulsion power or more but less than 3,000 kW, engaged on other than worldwide voyages, shall hold an engineer officer certificate and have at least six months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of engineer officer.
- (9) The chief engineer officer of a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 3,000 kW propulsion power or more shall hold a chief engineer officer certificate.

Section 10 – Requirements for the certification of fishing vessel personnel

- (1) The skipper of a fishing vessel of class I shall hold a boatmaster's B certificate for fishing vessels in catch areas I and II and a boatmaster's A certificate for fishing vessels in catch area III.
- (2) The skipper of a fishing vessel of class II shall hold a boatmaster's A certificate for fishing vessels.
- (3) The deck officer of a fishing vessel of class III shall hold a skipper's B certificate for fishing vessels, whereas the skipper shall hold a skipper's A certificate for fishing vessels.
- (4) A fishing vessel powered by main propulsion machinery of less than 350 kW propulsion power, on which the location of the machinery controls is such that the ship may be manoeuvred from the conning position, need not have a designated engine attendant.
- (5) On a fishing vessel powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more but less than 750 kW propulsion power one person shall hold an engine attendant's certificate.
- (6) If a fishing vessel is powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more the chief engineer officer shall hold a watchkeeping engineer's certificate.
- (7) A person who has received training in emergency procedures and safe working practices for fishing vessels and who holds
 - (1) a deck officer certificate in accordance with this Decree may serve in the capacity of deck officer on a fishing vessel of class III, engaged in fishing in the Baltic Sea area; a skipper of a fishing vessel of class III is, in addition, required to have twelve months of approved seagoing service in the capacity of deck officer, at least six months of which is service in the capacity of deck officer or skipper on a fishing vessel of 12 metres in length and over;
 - (2) a skipper's certificate for domestic service in accordance with this Decree may serve in the capacity of skipper of a fishing vessel the skipper of which shall hold a boatmaster's certificate A for fishing vessels;
 - (3) a boatmaster's certificate in accordance with this Decree may serve in the capacity of skipper of a fishing vessel the skipper of which shall hold a boatmaster's B certificate for fishing vessels.

Section 11 – *Requirements for certification of radio personnel*

- (1) On ships engaged on international voyages, all deck officers shall be holders of restricted operator's certificates (ROC). On ships operating in sea areas A2, A3 and A4 one of the deck officers shall, in addition, hold a general operator's certificate (GOC).
- (2) On domestic voyages in trading area III, all deck officers of passenger ships and one of the deck officers on cargo ships shall hold ROC or SRC (short range) certificates. On ships equipped with MF or MF/HF installations, all deck officers of passenger ships shall hold GOC or LRC (long range) certificates, whereas on cargo ships, one of the deck officers shall hold such a certificate and the rest of the deck officers GOC or SRC certificates.
- (3) On domestic voyages in trading area II, all deck officers of passenger ships and one of the deck officers on cargo ships shall hold ROC or SRC certificates.
- (4) On domestic voyages in trading area I, all deck officers of passenger ships and one of the deck officers on cargo ships shall hold restricted radiotelephony certificates for VHF communication. On ships required to be equipped with a VHF/DSC radiotelephone the said persons shall hold ROC or SRC certificates.
- (5) On road ferries equipped with a VHF radiotelephone, the ferry operator shall hold a restricted radiotelephony certificate for VHF communication.
- (6) On barges used for accommodation of workers employed on hydrological working sites located in the domestic trading areas, one person shall hold a restricted radiotelephony certificate for VHF communication.
- (7) On fishing vessels the length of which is less than 45 metres and which are not covered by the fishing vessel directive, one person shall hold a ROC or SRC certificate, if the vessel operates within sea area A1. In case the vessel operates outside sea area A1, one person on board shall hold a GOC or LRC certificate.
- (8) On fishing vessels the length of which is 45 metres or over and on fishing vessels of a length less than 45 metres, covered by the fishing vessel directive, one person shall hold a ROC certificate, if the vessel operates within sea area A1. In case the vessel operates outside sea area A1, one person shall hold a GOC certificate.

Section 12 – *Pressure equipment operators*

- (1) The chief engineer officer shall, under section 10 of the Pressure Equipment Act (869/1999), designate one or more crew members as pressure equipment operator(s). The operator(s) shall be familiarized with the operation of the ship's pressure equipment.
- (2) The operator shall tend to the pressure equipment in accordance with the standing orders of the operations supervisor.
- (3) The pressure equipment operator shall have the competence required for the task and be introduced to his or her duties.

Section 13 – *Pressure equipment operations supervisor on board motor ships*

On motor ships fitted with steam boilers, the engineer officer designated to be operations supervisor shall hold:

- 1) a steam engine attendant's certificate, equivalent to an engine attendant's A certificate in accordance with the Decree on certification of operations supervisors for boiler plants (891/1999), if the total power of the steam boilers is more than 80 bar and the pressure is 25 bar or less;
- 2) a watchkeeping engineer's certificate for steamships, equivalent to an assistant engineer's certificate in accordance with the aforesaid Decree, if the total power of the steam boilers is more than 80 bar but not more than 400 bar and the pressure is 1,600 bar or less;

- 3) an engineer officer's certificate for steamships, equivalent to an engineer officer certificate in accordance with the aforesaid Decree, if the total power of the steam boilers is 400 bar or more but not more than 1,600 bar; and
- 4) a chief engineer officer certificate for steamships, equivalent to a chief engineer officer certificate in accordance with the aforesaid Decree, if the total power of the steam boilers is 1,600 or more.

Section 14 – *Application for a certificate of competency*

Applications for certification shall include documentary evidence of training and work experience. A copy of any certificate of competency issued earlier shall be enclosed. A passport photo shall be enclosed, if the certificate applied for requires a photo. In case of first time applications, the applicant shall verify his or her identity. The applicant shall likewise submit a statement attesting that his or her medical fitness meets the requirements set out in the rules and regulations on the medical fitness of seafarers.

Section 15 – *Certificates for officers of the deck department*

The certificates of competency for officers of the deck department are:

- 1) boatmaster's certificate;
- 2) skipper's certificate for domestic service;
- 3) deck officer certificate;
- 4) chief officer certificate; and
- 5) captain's certificate.

Section 16 – *Boatmaster's certificate*

Every candidate for certification as boatmaster shall:

- 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
- 2) have passed an approved examination for boatmasters; and
- 3) have three months of seagoing service in the deck or engine department or on a pleasure craft or pleasure vessel of more than 10 metres in length and powered by propulsion machinery of 50 kW propulsion power or more.

Section 17 – *Skipper's certificate for domestic service*

Every candidate for certification as skipper in domestic service shall:

- 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
- 2) have passed an approved examination for skippers; and
- 3) have eight months of seagoing service in the deck department, which may include not more than two months of engineering service.

Section 18 – *Deck officer certificate*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as deck officer shall:
 - 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) have passed an approved examination for deck officers; and
 - 3) have the following seagoing service:
 - a) in accordance with an approved training programme, twelve months on a ship of 500 gross tonnage or more, engaged on international voyages;
 - b) 36 months, of which at least 24 months in the deck department of a ship of 500 gross tonnage or more, engaged on international voyages.
- (2) The seagoing service referred to in subsection 1(3) shall include not less than six months of bridge watchkeeping duties under the supervision of deck officers.
- (3) In order to obtain a deck officer certificate restricted to domestic service, seagoing service in more extensive service than domestic service is not required.

Section 19 – *Chief officer certificate*

Every candidate for certification as chief officer shall:

- 1) have passed an approved examination for captains;
- 2) hold a deck officer certificate; and
- 3) have twelve months of seagoing service as a deck officer on a ship of 500 gross tonnage or more, engaged on international voyages.

Section 20 – *Captain's certificate*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as captain shall:
 - 1) have passed an approved examination for captains;
 - 2) hold a deck officer certificate; and
 - 3) have the following seagoing service:
 - a) 36 months as deck officer; or
 - b) 24 months as deck officer, at least twelve months of which shall be service as chief officer.
- (2) The seagoing service referred to in subsection 1(3) shall be service on a ship of 500 gross tonnage or more, engaged on international voyages.

Section 21 – *Certificates for officers of the engine department*

- (1) The certificates of competency for officers of the engine department are:
 - 1) engine attendant's certificate;
 - 2) watchkeeping engineer's certificate;
 - 3) engineer officer certificate;
 - 4) chief engineer officer certificate; and
 - 5) electrical engineer's certificate.
- (2) With the exception of the electrical engineer's certificate, the certificates for officers of the engine department are issued either for motor ships or for steamships.

Section 22 – *Engine attendant's certificate*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as engine attendant shall:
 - 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) have passed an approved examination for engine attendants; and
 - 3) have approved seagoing service of not less than eight months in the engine department in accordance with the engine attendant's certificate applied for, either on a motor ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 75 kW propulsion power or more or on a steamship with a boiler power figure of 7 or more. No more than two months of service in the deck department may be included in this engineering service.
- (2) Holders of engine attendant's certificates for steamships are required to perform four months of engineering service on a motor ship in order to obtain an engine attendant's certificate for motor ships. Correspondingly, holders of engine attendant's certificates for motor ships are required to perform four months of engineering service on a steamship or four months of service as boiler operator on a motor ship with a boiler power figure of 7 or more, or six months as boiler operator in a power plant ashore with a boiler power figure of 80 or more, in order to obtain an engine attendant's certificate for steamships.

Section 23 – *Watchkeeping engineer's certificate*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as watchkeeping engineer shall:
 - 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) have passed an examination for watchkeeping engineers; and
 - 3) have the following practical training:
 - a) either at least twelve months of service that follows an approved programme of on-board training; or
 - b) a total of 24 months of seagoing service and work experience.
- (2) The 24-month period referred to in subsection 1(3)(b) shall include:
 - 1) twelve months of seagoing service, of which at least six months shall follow an approved programme of on-board training in the engine department, in accordance with the watchkeeping engineer's certificate applied for, either on a steamship with a boiler power of 80 or more or on a motor ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more;
 - 2) eight months of service both in a workshop manufacturing or repairing prime movers and in functions relating to service of electrical installations; and
 - 3) four months of the service referred to either in subsection 2(1) or subsection 2(2).
- (3) At its discretion, the Finnish Transport Safety Agency may accept approved training instead of the service referred to in subsection 2(2).
- (4) Holders of watchkeeping engineer's certificates for steamships are required to perform six months of engineering service on a motor ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW or more in order to obtain a watchkeeping engineer's certificate for motor ships. Correspondingly, holders of watchkeeping engineer's certificates for motor ships are required to perform six months of engineering service on a steamship or six months of service as boiler operator either on a motor ship with a boiler power figure of 80 or more, or in a power plant ashore with a boiler power figure of 400 or more, in order to obtain a watchkeeping engineer's certificate for steamships.
- (5) The training referred to in subsection 1 above and the practical training relating thereto shall total 30 months, including at least six months of seagoing service in the engine department on a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more or with a boiler power figure of 80 or more. Such training shall produce the theoretical knowledge required of holders of watchkeeping engineer's certificates for both steamships and motor ships.

Section 24 – *Engineer officer certificate*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as engineer officer shall:
 - 1) hold a watchkeeping engineer's certificate;
 - 2) have passed an approved examination for chief engineer officers; and
 - 3) have at least twelve months of seagoing service as watchkeeping engineer, in accordance with the certificate applied for, either on board a steamship with a boiler power of 400 or more or on board a motor ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more.
- (2) In order to obtain an engineer officer certificate for motor ships, holders of engineer officer certificates for steamships shall have a watchkeeping engineer's certificate for motor ships and six months of work experience, gained after it has been issued, as engineer officer on board a motor ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more.
- (3) Correspondingly, in order to obtain an engineer officer certificate for steamships, holders of engineer officer certificates for motor ships shall have a watchkeeping engineer's certificate for steamships and six months of engineering service, gained after it has been issued, as engineer officer on board a steamship or motor ship with a boiler power figure of 400 or more, or in a power plant ashore with a power figure of 1,300 or more.

Section 25 – *Chief engineer officer certificate*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as chief engineer officer shall:
- 1) hold an engineer officer certificate;
 - 2) have passed an approved examination for chief engineer officers; and
 - 3) have at least twelve months of seagoing service as engineer officer after the service entitling to an engineer officer certificate, in accordance with the chief engineer officer certificate applied for, either on board a steamship with a boiler power of 1,300 or more or on board a motor ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 1,500 kW propulsion power or more.
- (2) In order to obtain a chief engineer officer certificate for motor ships, holders of chief engineer officer certificates for steamships shall have an engineer officer certificate for motor ships and six months of engineering service, completed after the service entitling to the engineer officer certificate, as engineer officer on board a motor ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 1,500 kW propulsion power or more. Correspondingly, holders of chief engineer officer certificates for motor ships shall, in order to obtain a chief engineer officer certificate for steamships, have an engineer officer certificate for steamships and six months of engineering service, completed after the service entitling to the engineer officer certificate for steamships, on board a steamship or a motor ship with a boiler power figure of 1,300 or more, or in a power plant ashore with a power figure of 1,600 or more.

Section 26 – *Electrical engineer's certificate*

Every candidate for certification as electrical engineer shall:

- 1) have passed an examination for electrical engineers; and
- 2) have not less than twelve months of service in the field of electrical engineering, of which at least six months shall be service either as a ship's electrician or in functions relating to marine electrical installations.

Section 27 – *Certificates of ratings*

The certificates of ratings include:

- 1) deck hand's certificate;
- 2) watchkeeping rating's certificate;
- 3) able seaman's or motorman's certificate;
- 4) boatswain's or repairman's certificate; and
- 5) ship's electrician's certificate.

Section 28 – *Deck hand's certificate*

Every candidate for certification as deck hand shall:

- 1) be not less than 16 years of age; and
- 2) have passed an approved examination for deck hands.

Section 29 – *Deck hand's training*

- (1) The training of deck hands shall include:
- 1) basic training in personal survival techniques; use of life-saving appliances carried on board, equipment in survival craft, location of personal life-saving appliances, donning of lifejackets and immersion suits, use of lifebuoys, preparing liferafts and buoyancy apparatus for use, location of pyrotechnical distress signals and their instructions for use, location of first aid kits, recovery of survivors from the water, assistance of passengers and use of communication devices in emergencies;
 - 2) training in fire-fighting; introduction to the fire-fighting appliances and equipment of the ship and their use; location of fire-fighting appliances, emergency escape routes, release of the fire-extinguishing system of the machinery space, use of the fuel tank quick-closing valves and closing of ventilation system and fire dampers;

- 3) training in personal safety and social responsibilities; importance of safe working practices, correct use of safety and protective equipment, use of life preservers especially when working outside railings;
 - 4) training in ship handling; introduction to the operation and steering of the ship in accordance with the instructions of the master and, in exceptional circumstances, independently using landmarks and the compass, how to berth and start and stop the machinery;
 - 5) shore-based training; a medical first-aid course intended for boaters or the like and a practical drill arranged by a fire-fighting expert in the use of portable fire-extinguishers and fire blankets to extinguish flammable liquids.
- (2) Training given under subsection 1(1-4) shall be endorsed by a certificate issued by the master, when the standard of competence has been ensured.

Section 30 – *Watchkeeping rating's certificate*

Every candidate for certification as watchkeeping rating shall:

- 1) be not less than 16 years of age; and
- 2) have passed an approved training for watchkeeping ratings and have two months of seagoing service in accordance with an approved programme for on-board training.

Section 31 – *Able seaman's and motorman's certificates*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as able seaman shall:
- 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) have passed an approved examination for able seamen; and
 - 3) have six months of seagoing service in the deck department or as dual-purpose rating in the deck or engine department on a merchant ship of 200 gross tonnage or more and powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more.
- (2) Every candidate for certification as motorman shall:
- 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) have passed an approved examination for motormen; and
 - 3) have six months of seagoing service in the engine department or as dual-purpose rating in the deck or engine department on a merchant ship of 200 gross tonnage or more and powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more.

Section 32 – *Boatswain's and repairman's certificates*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as boatswain shall:
- 1) hold an able seaman's certificate;
 - 2) have passed an approved examination for boatswains; and
 - 3) have not less than six months of seagoing service completed after the service entitling to the able seaman's certificate in the deck department or as dual-purpose rating in the deck or engine department on a merchant ship of 200 gross tonnage or more and powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more.
- (2) Every candidate for certification as repairman shall:
- 1) hold a motorman's certificate;
 - 2) have passed an approved examination for repairmen; and
 - 3) have not less than six months of seagoing service completed after the service entitling to the motorman's certificate in the engine department or as dual-purpose rating in the deck or engine department on a merchant ship of 200 gross tonnage or more and powered by main propulsion machinery of 350 kW propulsion power or more.

Section 33 – *Ship's electrician's certificate*

Every candidate for certification as ship's electrician shall:

- 1) be not less than 18 years of age; and
- 2) have passed an approved examination for ship's electricians.

Section 34 – *Catering department certificates*

Catering department certificates include:

- 1) catering assistant's certificate;
- 2) ship's cook's certificate;
- 3) cook steward's certificate; and
- 4) chief steward's certificate.

Section 35 – *Catering assistant's certificate*

Every candidate for certification as catering assistant shall:

- 1) be not less than 17 years of age; and
- 2) have passed an approved examination for catering assistants.

Section 36 – *Ship's cook's certificate*

Every candidate for certification as ship's cook shall:

- 1) be not less than 18 years of age; and
- 2) have passed an approved examination for ship's cooks.

Section 37 – *Cook steward's certificate*

Every candidate for certification as cook steward shall:

- 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
- 2) have passed an approved examination for chief stewards; or
- 3) hold a ship's cook's certificate and have not less than twelve months of seagoing service as cook.

Section 38 – *Chief steward's certificate*

Every candidate for certification as chief steward shall:

- 1) have passed an approved examination for chief stewards; and
- 2) have not less than 24 months of work experience in restaurant kitchens, of which at least twelve months is seagoing service as cook.

Section 39 – *Certificates of competency for fishing vessels*

The certificates of competency required on board fishing vessels are:

- 1) boatmaster's certificate B for fishing vessels;
- 2) boatmaster's certificate A for fishing vessels;
- 3) skipper's certificate B for fishing vessels;
- 4) skipper's certificate A for fishing vessels.

Section 40 – *Boatmaster's certificate B for fishing vessels*

(1) Every candidate for certification as boatmaster of class B on board fishing vessels shall:

- 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
- 2) hold a certificate issued by a teacher at a maritime institute or by a maritime inspector to the effect that the candidate is familiar with:
 - a) the Rules of the Road at Sea and the Rules of the Road on Inland Waterways, aids to navigation, nautical charts, the compass, compass deviation, how to plot bearings and courses, how to use the log and the lead line, and how to keep a log book;
 - b) the provisions on ship surveys and on the skipper's responsibilities, as applicable, and the basic maritime legislation on social security matters; and
 - c) to a sufficient extent, the construction, maintenance and operation of internal combustion engines, as well as the major provisions concerning them; and
- 3) seagoing service of not less than twelve months in the deck department of a fishing vessel or a merchant ship.

- (2) The requirements under subsection 1(2) may be substituted by boatmaster training in accordance with section 16.
- (3) The Finnish Transport Safety Agency may approve the substitution of the seagoing service referred to in subsection 1(3) by seagoing service on board other vessels than fishing vessels or merchant ships.

Section 41 – *Boatmaster’s certificate A for fishing vessels*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as boatmaster class A on board fishing vessels shall:
 - 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) have passed an approved training; and
 - 3) have seagoing service of not less than 24 months in the deck department of a fishing vessel or a merchant ship.
- (2) The training referred to in subsection 1(2) may be substituted by training for skippers in domestic service.
- (3) The Finnish Transport Safety Agency may approve the substitution of a maximum of twelve months of the seagoing service referred to in subsection 1(3) by training or supervised on-board training.

Section 42 – *Skipper’s certificate B for fishing vessels*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as skipper class B on board fishing vessels shall:
 - 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) have passed an approved training; and
 - 3) have seagoing service of at least 24 months in the deck department of a fishing vessel of not less than 12 metres in length.
- (2) The training referred to in subsection 1(2) may be substituted by deck officer training.
- (3) The Finnish Transport Safety Agency may approve the substitution of a maximum of twelve months of the seagoing service referred to in subsection 1(3) by training or supervised on-board training.

Section 43 – *Skipper’s certificate A for fishing vessels*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as skipper class A on board fishing vessels shall:
 - 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) have passed the approved training; and
 - 3) have seagoing service of at least 24 months as watchkeeping officer or skipper of a fishing vessel of not less than 12 metres in length.
- (2) The training referred to in subsection 1(2) may be substituted by training for watchkeeping officers.
- (3) The Finnish Transport Safety Agency may approve the substitution of a maximum of six months of the seagoing service referred to in subsection 1(3) by seagoing service as deck officer on a merchant ship.

Section 44 – *Alternative certification*

- (1) A person who, as a minimum, has the standard of competence of deck officer and who has completed the education and training required of watchkeeping engineers as well as a six-month programme of on-board training in the operation and maintenance of marine engines, is certificated as dual-purpose officer qualified to perform both engine-room duties and bridge watchkeeping duties. Correspondingly, a person who, as a minimum, has the standard of competence of watchkeeping engineer and who has completed the education and training required of deck officers and has at least six months of seagoing service in accordance with an on-board training programme in bridge watchkeeping duties will likewise be certificated as officer qualified for both bridge watchkeeping duties and engine-room duties.
- (2) A person who has a chief officer certificate, a watchkeeping engineer's certificate and twelve months of seagoing service as watchkeeping engineer; or alternatively an engineer officer certificate, a deck officer certificate and twelve months of seagoing service as deck officer will be certificated as dual-purpose officer qualified to serve in the capacity of both chief officer and engineer officer.
- (3) The provisions of section 8 on the requirements for certification of masters and of section 9 on the requirements for certification of chief engineer officers shall be taken into account in the application of this section.

Section 45 – *Certification of operators of charter boats*

Every candidate for certification as operator of a charter boat shall:

- 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
- 2) hold a certificate of medical fitness entitling him or her to a driving licence for motor-cars;
- 3) hold a first aid certificate;
- 4) have the necessary experience for operating a charter boat; and
- 5) be familiar with:
 - a) the provisions of the Water Transport Act (463/1996) and the Water Transport Decree (124/1997);
 - b) Rules of the Road at Sea;
 - c) the provisions of the Rules of the Road on Inland Waterways, 1978 (Decree 252/1978);
 - d) aids to navigation, nautical charts, the compass, the plotting of bearings and courses and the keeping of a log book; and
 - e) the provisions of the Maritime Act (674/1994) and other provisions on the duties of shipmasters, as applicable.

Section 46 – *International certificate for operators of pleasure craft*

- (1) Every candidate for certification as operator of pleasure craft ("international certificate") shall:
 - 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) hold a certificate of medical fitness entitling him or her to a driving licence for motor-cars;
 - 3) have successfully passed an examination entitling him or her to an international certificate for operators of pleasure craft in accordance with Resolution No. 40 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Section 47 – *Emergency and health care training*

- (1) Personnel assigned to specific shipboard duties in the muster list shall receive appropriate basic safety training.
- (2) Crew members shall have completed an appropriate approved fire-fighting course.

- (3) Crew members designated to provide medical first aid on board ship shall have completed a medical first-aid course.
- (4) Crew members designated to take charge of medical care on board ship shall have completed a training course in medical care on board ships. The training must be revalidated at five-year intervals.
- (5) Crew members who have not been assigned specific duties in the muster list shall receive familiarization training in personal survival techniques on board ship.
- (6) Personnel on board passenger ships and ro-ro passenger ships designated to assist passengers in emergencies shall have the ability to communicate with passengers in Finnish, Swedish and English and, where possible, the language of the country of destination on routes between Finland and foreign countries.
- (7) Personnel serving in safety-related functions on passenger ships and ro-ro passenger ships shall, when on duty, be dressed so that they are easily identified as members of the crew.
- (8) Deck hands serving on board ships carrying more than 250 passengers on domestic voyages shall receive basic safety training in accordance with the STCW Convention.
- (9) Documentary evidence of the training may be issued upon completion of basic safety training.

Section 48 – *Certificates of proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats*

- (1) Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats shall:
 - 1) be not less than 18 years of age;
 - 2) have the following seagoing service:
 - a) twelve months; or
 - b) six months and the training referred to in section 30; and
 - 3) seafarers' training for proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats.
- (2) Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency in fast rescue boats shall hold a certificate of proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats and have completed training in the operation of fast rescue boats.

Section 49 – *Special training requirements for personnel on ro-ro and other passenger ships*

- (1) Personnel designated to assist passengers in emergencies on ro-ro passenger ships shall have completed training for emergency situations and safety on ro-ro passenger ships.
- (2) Personnel designated to assist passengers in emergencies on passenger ships other than ro-ro passenger ships shall have completed training for emergency situations and safety on passenger ships.
- (3) Masters, chief mates, chief engineer officers, second engineer officers and every person on board ro-ro passenger ships having direct responsibility for the safety of passengers in emergency situations or having direct responsibility for the safety of the ship, loading, discharging or securing cargo, or closing hull openings on board ro-ro passenger ships shall have completed approved special training for personnel of ro-ro passenger ships.
- (4) Masters, chief mates, chief engineer officers and second engineer officers and any other person on board passenger ships other than ro-ro passenger ships having direct responsibility for the safety of passengers in emergency situations or having direct responsibility for the safety of the ship or for embarking and disembarking passengers or for crisis management shall have completed approved special safety training for personnel of passenger ships.

- (5) Seafarers who are required to be trained in accordance with subsections 3 and 4 above shall, at intervals not exceeding five years, undertake appropriate refresher training or be required to present documentary evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence within the previous five years.
- (6) Documentary evidence of the training that has been completed shall be issued to every person found qualified or an entry of the completed training be made in a record kept on board.

Section 50 – *Certificate of proficiency for ship security officers*

Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency as ship security officer shall:

- 1) have twelve months of seagoing service or seagoing service and knowledge of ship operations; and
- 2) have completed approved training as ship security officer.

Section 51 – *Special training requirements for personnel on tankers*

- (1) Personnel responsible for cargo handling on tankers shall:
 - 1) have completed a tanker familiarization course; or
 - 2) have completed an approved three-month on-board training period on a tanker.
- (2) Masters, chief mates, chief engineer officers, second engineer officers and any other persons on oil tankers, chemical tankers or liquefied gas carriers directly responsible for cargo handling shall:
 - 1) have completed an approved specialized training for the type of tanker concerned; and
 - 2) have not less than six months of seagoing service, in accordance with their duties, on board a ship of a similar type.
- (3) The six-month seagoing service referred to in subsection 2(2) above may be included in the seagoing service required for the certificate of competency or proficiency.
- (4) Personnel holding a certificate in accordance with subsection 2 will be given a certificate entitling them to cargo handling on another type of ship after completion of the specialized training referred to in subsection 2 and three-months of seagoing service on the type of tanker in question.

Section 52 – *Period of validity and revalidation of certificates*

- (1) Certificates of competency for deck and engine officers and the certificates of proficiency for personnel on tankers, mentioned in section 51, with the exception of certificates of competency for domestic service, are issued for a period of five years.
- (2) Certificates of competency for skippers, classes A and B, on fishing vessels are issued for a period of five years.
- (3) In applying for revalidation, holders of certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency shall present documentary evidence that they have retained their standard of competence and that their medical fitness complies with the provisions issued on the medical fitness of seafarers.
- (4) A holder of a certificate of competency is considered to have retained his or her competence if:
 - 1) he or she has at least one year of approved seagoing service during the preceding five years in the capacity of officer on board;
 - 2) he or she has served in a capacity equivalent to the seagoing service mentioned in subsection 1 and completed the mandatory minimum training in advanced fire fighting (STCW A-VI/3) and the training intended for seafarers designated to provide medical first aid on board (STCW A-VI/4-1); or

- 3) he or she has completed an approved specialized training and the mandatory minimum training in advanced fire fighting (STCW A-VI/3) and the training intended for seafarers designated to provide medical first aid on board (STCW A-VI/4-1); or
- 4) he or she has completed at least three months of seagoing service in the capacity of supernumerary officer, immediately prior to taking up the position, or an equivalent period of service in a capacity below the certificate of competency concerned, however not as chief engineer officer on a ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more, and has completed an approved specialized training and the mandatory minimum training in advanced fire fighting (STCW A-VI/3) and the training intended for seafarers designated to provide medical first aid on board (STCW A-VI/4-1).
- (5) A holder of a certificate of proficiency for personnel on tankers is considered to have retained his or her proficiency if:
- 1) he or she has completed at least one year of approved seagoing service on a tanker during the five years immediately preceding the application for revalidation;
 - 2) he or she has work experience equivalent to the seagoing service mentioned in subsection 1 in port operations of tankers; or
 - 3) he or she has completed the specialized approved training.

Section 53 – *Revalidation of certificates for fishing vessels*

- (1) In applying for revalidation, holders of certificates of competency or certificates of proficiency shall present documentary evidence that their medical fitness complies with the provisions issued on the medical fitness of seafarers and that they have retained their standard of competence.
- (2) A holder of a certificate of competency is considered to have retained his or her competence if:
- 1) he or she has at least one year of approved seagoing service during the preceding five years in the capacity of officer on board;
 - 2) he or she has served in a capacity mentioned in subsection 1, equivalent to the capacity of officer and equivalent to the certificate of competency he or she holds;
 - 3) he or she has successfully completed a refresher course or course appropriate for skippers and officers serving on fishing vessels; or
 - 4) he or she has completed approved seagoing service as officer for a period of at least three months on a fishing vessel in a supernumerary capacity, immediately prior to taking up the position for which the certificate is valid.

Section 54 – *Recognition of certificates issued by the competent authorities of other countries*

- (1) A certificate issued by the competent authority of a state belonging to the European Economic Area (an EEA State) to a national of an EEA State and meeting the requirements of the STCW Convention shall be recognized. Upon written application, the Finnish Transport Safety Agency will issue an endorsement to attest the recognition of a certificate.
- (2) The Finnish Transport Safety Agency may, upon written application, grant a person holding a certificate issued by the competent authority of a country other than an EEA State and meeting the requirements of the STCW Convention, permission to serve in a certain capacity on board a Finnish ship in the manner set out in the Convention. The certificate issued by the competent authority and documentary evidence of the training, work experience and medical fitness of the applicant shall be appended to the application. The Finnish Transport Safety Agency will issue an endorsement to attest the recognition of the certificate, and the endorsement shall indicate the period of validity of the certificate.
- (3) The provisions of subsection 2 apply to nationals of countries other than EEA States, to whom a certificate of an EEA State has been issued.
- (4) The endorsements referred to in subsections 1-2 above shall be granted in accordance with Article VI(2) of the STCW Convention.

Section 55 – *Withdrawal of the recognition of certificates issued by the competent authorities of countries other than EEA States*

- (1) The Finnish Transport Safety Agency shall notify the Commission of the European Communities without delay if it considers that a certificate issued by the competent authority of a country other than an EEA State no longer meets the requirements of the STCW Convention.
- (2) The recognition of the certificate and the endorsement may be withdrawn in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Minimum level of training of seafarers Directive.

Section 56 – *Entry into force*

This Decree enters into force on 1 January 2010.