

To whom it may concern

Seafarers may be exempt from completing the practical part of selected courses up until 1 July 2020

In order to ensure and maintain transport services along the Norwegian coast due to the societal problems caused by COVID-19, the Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) will, up until 1 July 2020, allow seafarers who are offered work on board a Norwegian vessel to commence service even if they have only completed the theoretical parts of selected courses.

This required by the provisions of the Regulations of 22 December 2011 No. 1523 on qualifications and certificates for seafarers, hereinafter referred to as the Qualification Regulations:

- basic safety training for seafarers, cf. Qualification Regulations sections 7 and 8;
- crowd and crisis management and safety on passenger ships, cf. Qualification Regulations section 60;
- certificate of proficiency in basic training and in advanced training, cf. Qualification Regulations sections 69 and 69a.

Several course providers offer e-learning for the theoretical content of these courses. However, travel restrictions and cancelled courses due to the coronavirus pandemic make it impossible for seafarers to complete the practical training which is part of these courses. Therefore, the NMA has decided that seafarers who have completed the theoretical parts of the courses referred to above may serve on board ships in a position where such course is required, up until 1 July 2020.

Despite the industry's operational challenges caused by COVID-19, the NMA specifies that the provisions of the Qualification Regulations apply. For some positions on board, the NMA will, for a limited period of time, allow seafarers to commence service without the required practical training related to certain tasks. However, the company must assess and decide whether the seafarer is qualified for the position and the work. Practical training on board with a subsequent documented and registered final evaluation may be an example of how the company can execute the alternative training.

Companies that need to use the scope of action the NMA allows for must submit information to the NMA by e-mail: post@sdir.no



Topic: 2020/29806 – First name Last name, national identity number, documentation of alternative practical training required by the Regulations on qualifications and certificates for seafarers sections 7, 8, 60, 69 or 69a.

On dd.mm.yyyy, Company “organisation number” assigned “First name Last name”, “national identity number” to serve as «position» on board the MS “call signal – name of ship”.
The seafarer has completed alternative practical training as set out in the Qualification Regulations section “section number”.

Best regards,
Signature from a company representative

“First name Last name” and “national identity number” will identify the seafarer who has completed the alternative practical training in the e-mail sent to the NMA.

The content of the box “position” provides information about the position the seafarer has on board.
The content of the box “call signal – name of ship” links the seafarer to a specific ship.
Insert one or more section numbers as referred to above in the box “section number”.

Yours faithfully,
Lars S. Alvestad
Acting Director General of Navigation and Shipping

Håvard Gåseidnes
Acting Head of Department

This document has been electronically approved, and therefore does not contain handwritten signatures.