

New MCA certificate of competency for workboats over 24m

The MCA has acknowledged the increasing number of workboats over 24m in load line length by introducing new STCW certificates of competency (CoCs) which will allow deck and engineer officers to work on these vessels without having to hold full merchant navy unlimited certificates.

The new MCA Master (Workboats Less Than 500GT) CoC was introduced in 2013 – details are contained in the M-Notice MGN 496. The Master 500GT CoC builds on the MCA Master 200GT (Code Vessels Less Than 200GT) and the different progression routes are illustrated on the diagram inside this guide.

Candidates meeting the requirements will be issued with an STCW CoC limited to service in workboats of 500GT or less, with an unlimited area of operation. This will be based on the certification requirements for large yachts detailed in MSN 1858.



Manning scales

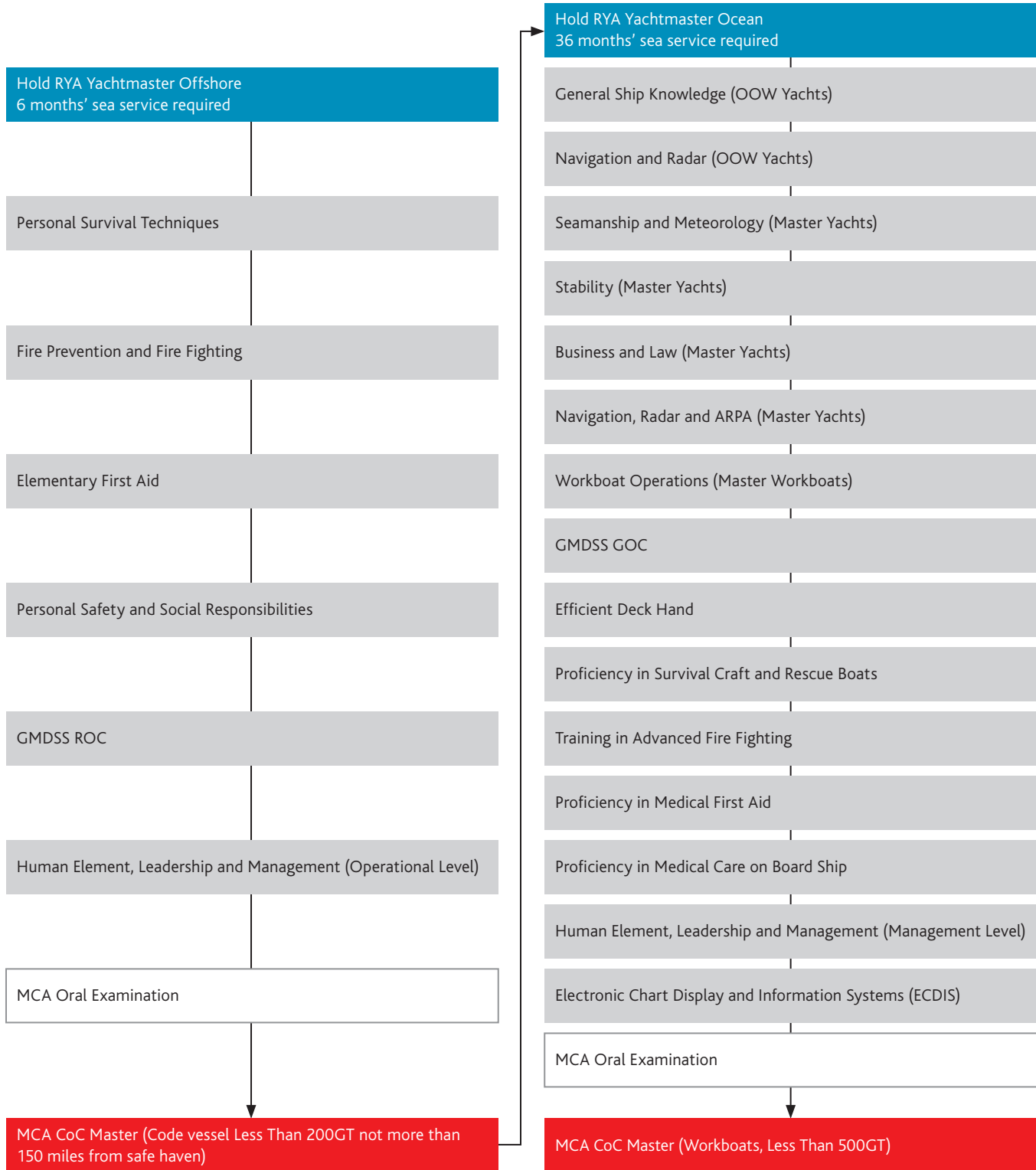
The following manning scales apply to workboats over 24m and less than 500GT:

Area Miles from safe haven	Rank	Vessel Less Than 500GT
Up to 60nm	Master Chief Mate	Master Workboat < 500GT Coastal Skipper
Up to 150nm	Master Chief Mate	Master Workboat < 500GT Yachtmaster Offshore
Over 150nm	Master Chief Mate OOW	Master Workboat < 500GT Master Code Vessel Less Than 200GT Yachtmaster Offshore

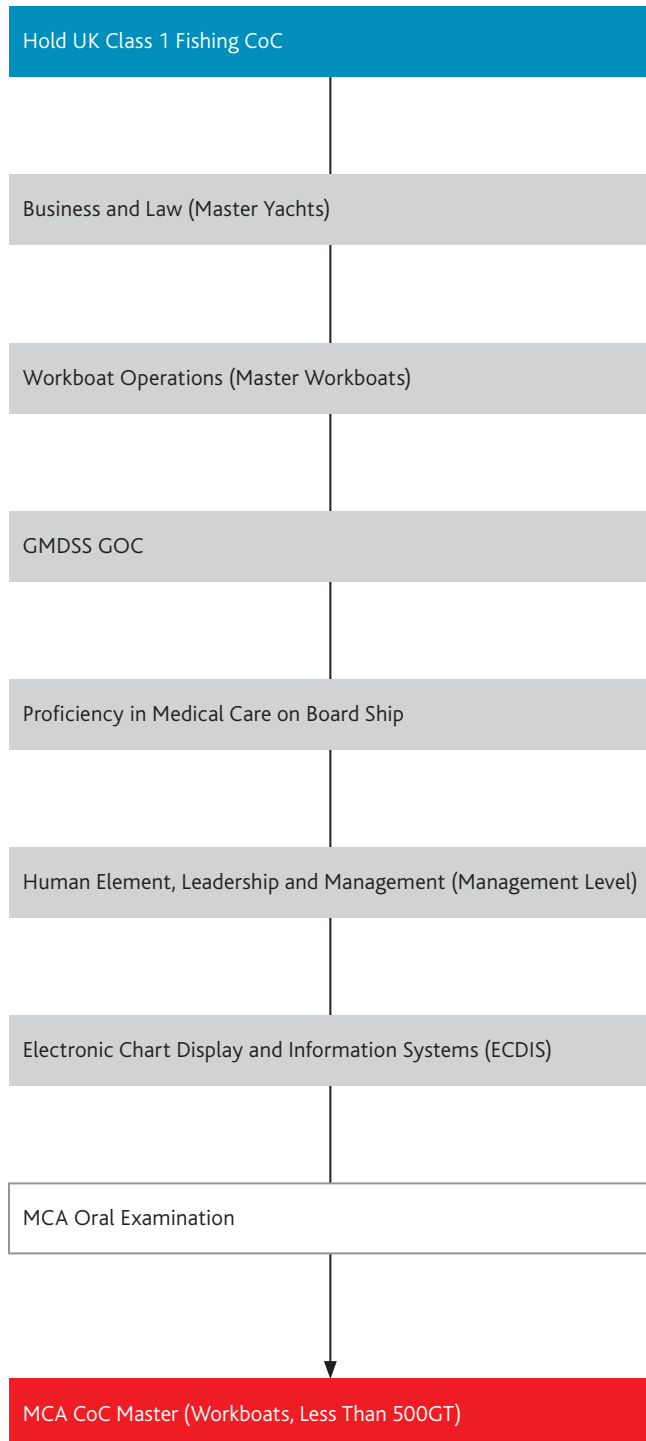
Where appropriate, dual deck and assistant engineer roles may be considered, provided that the officer is suitably qualified in both disciplines and that the person holding the dual role is a person other than a Master.

Master (Workboats, less than 500gt) Progression Chart (incl. STCW 2010 Manila Amendments)

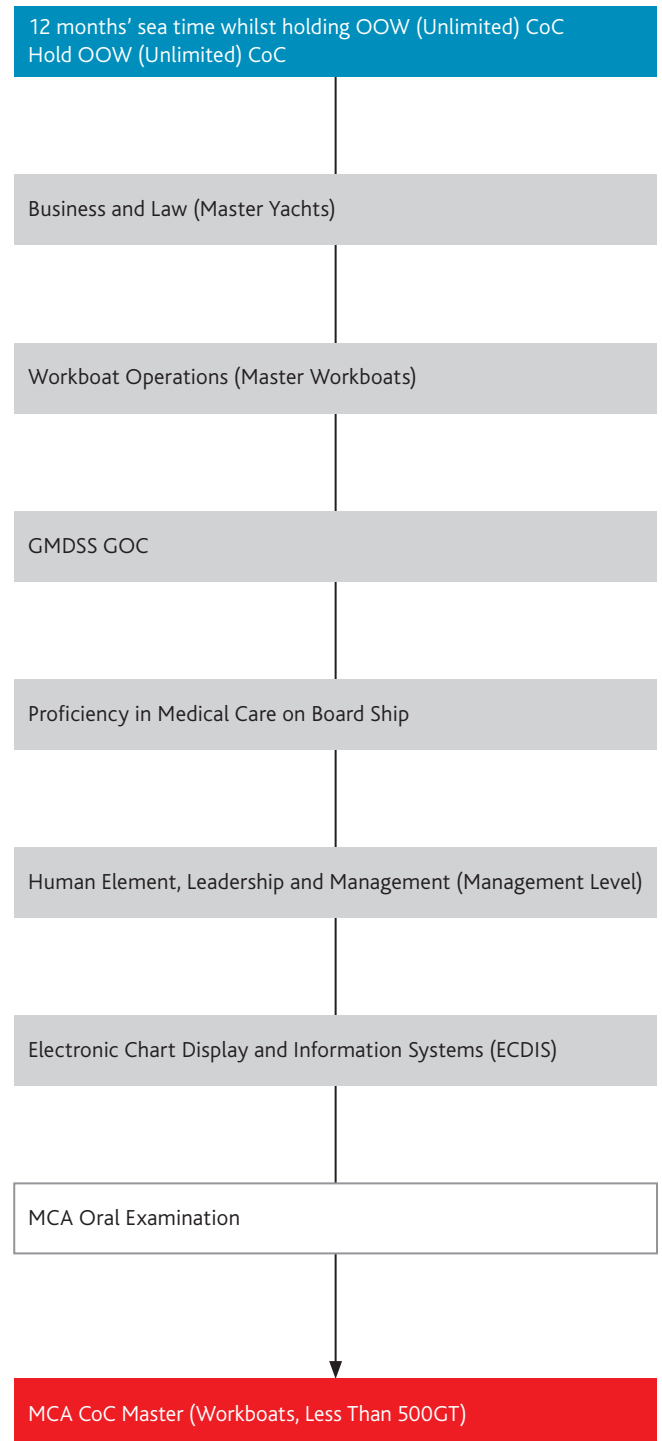
Candidates must hold a valid ENG1 Medical Fitness Certificate or recognised equivalent.



For those with Fishing CoC:



For those with OOW (Unlimited) CoC:



Engineering qualifications for workboats over 24m

There are changes to the engineering qualification, and whilst the corresponding M-Notice has not yet been issued, this is an indication of how the new STCW certification structure will look:

- The small vessel engineering qualification will be a new combined certification structure for engineer officers wanting to work on tugs, large workboats, standby, seismic survey, oceanographic research vessels, government patrol vessels, fishing vessels or commercial yachts.

The route for certification is structured to provide a progressive career path for those in the industry to achieve small vessel engineer qualifications and will provide three certification levels:

- Second Engineer Less Than 9,000kW, Less Than 3,000GT.
- Chief Engineer Less Than 3,000kW, Less Than 500GT/ Second Engineer Less Than 9,000kW, Less Than 3,000GT.
- Chief Engineer Less Than 9,000kW, Less Than 3,000GT.



CoC	Area limitation	Power and tonnage limitation	Vessel limitation	STCW Convention regulation
Second Engineer	Unlimited	Less Than 9,000kW and Less Than 3,000GT	Fishing vessels, yachts, tugs, large workboats, standby, seismic survey, oceanographic research vessels and government patrol vessels	III/2
Chief Engineer	Unlimited	Chief Engineer Less Than 3,000kW and Less Than 500GT	Fishing vessels, yachts, tugs, large workboats, standby, seismic survey, oceanographic research vessels and government patrol vessels	III/3
		Second Engineer Less Than 9,000kW and Less Than 3,000GT	Fishing vessels, yachts, tugs, large workboats, standby, seismic survey, oceanographic research vessels and government patrol vessels	III/2
Chief Engineer	Unlimited	Less Than 9,000kW and Less Than 3,000GT	Fishing vessels, yachts, tugs, large workboats, standby, seismic survey, oceanographic research vessels and government patrol vessels	III/2

The MIN containing all MCA/SQA exam schedules is expected to be published by the MCA in June 2016, and therefore training towards the new CoCs listed above has not yet begun. Please check our website for all relevant information once the new certification structure has come into force.


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