



Bermuda Shipping and Maritime Authority

BERMUDA SHIPPING NOTICE

CERTIFICATION AS SHIP'S COOK

This shipping notice is intended for Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Masters and Catering Staff of Merchant Ships, Commercial Yachts and those concerned with Maritime Training.

PLEASE NOTE:

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances – for example, from vessel to vessel and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your legal position.

Summary

This notice should be read in conjunction with:

Merchant Shipping Act 2002, as amended
Merchant Shipping (Manning of Ships) Regulations 2011
Merchant Shipping (Provisions, Catering and Ships Cooks) Regulations 2013
Merchant Shipping (Provisions, Catering and Ships Cooks) Amendment Regulations 2014
Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Provisions, Catering and Ships Cooks) Regulations 2013, as amended, (the Regulations) implement in Bermuda the provisions of Regulation 3.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 (the Convention) relating to Food and Catering. This Shipping Notice is concerned with the training, experience and certification requirements of Ship's Cook on Bermuda ships.

2. Carriage of ship's cooks

- 2.1 As per the Regulations, every Bermuda ship, other than a ship that has a safe manning certificate for less than 10 seafarers and is engaged on voyages of less than 24 hours where the seafarers onboard have the opportunity to obtain meals ashore, shall carry a qualified ships cook.

3. Qualification requirements for ship's cook

- 3.1 A duly qualified ships cook on a Bermuda ship must hold either:
- a) A Ship's Cook certificate issued on successful completion of a training course in Bermuda that is recognized by the Minister, or
 - b) A certificate issued on successful completion of a training course in another country that is a Signatory to the Convention and which is recognized by the Competent Authority of that country as meeting the Standard A3.2 of the Convention, relating to food and catering.

4. Equivalent qualification as ship's cook

- 4.1 Where professionally qualified cooks who have been trained in shore based establishments are available for employment at sea, other than the training mentioned in paragraph 3, the Minister may accept such shore based training for cooks that he considers to be equivalent to the training required under the Standard A3.2 of the Convention, and training course specifications described in regulation 10 (1) (b) of the Regulations, for employment on Bermuda ships;

- 4.2 Regulation 9 (2) of the Regulations provide for the owner of a ship that carries a large number of seafarers such as a cruise ship to engage other cooks as necessary, in addition to the qualified cooks required in the Regulations. On such ships employment of seafarers holding 'Equivalent qualifications as ship's cook' may be considered by ship owners;
- 4.3 Currently, Bermuda recognizes cook's professional qualifications, such as a City & Guilds qualification, a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) or a Diploma or a similar qualification obtained from a shore based catering training establishment acceptable to Bermuda, provided the course contents meet the Standard A3.2 of the Convention, and training course specifications described in regulation 10 (1) (b) of the Regulations and hold a valid certificate issued by that shore based establishment attesting to the completion of specified training;
- 4.4 Seafarers who have obtained the professional qualifications as cooks from a recognized shore based establishments and fulfill the minimum age requirements and sea service requirements will be entitled to obtain a Bermuda 'Certificate of Equivalency as a Ship's Cook' for serving on board a Bermuda ship.

5. Procedure for application for a 'Certificate of Equivalency as a Ship's Cook'

- 5.1 In order to implement the ship's cooks equivalency certification process in an efficient manner, the applications must be submitted by the shipowner/operator/employer with the relevant signatures and the supporting documentation;
- 5.2 When applying for a Certificate of Equivalency as a Ship's Cook the applicant shall:
 - a) complete the relevant parts of the application form, a copy of which can be found in the Download area of the Administrations website at www.bermudashipping.bm
 - b) read the declaration by the seafarer and sign within the box provided for the seafarer's signature
 - c) employer, read the declaration, complete the information required and sign within the box provided for the Employer's Signature
 - d) provide copies of all professional qualifications as a cook
 - e) provide copies of certificates showing proof of having attended the 4 basic STCW courses
 - f) provide proof of sea service to show at least 2 years of sea service
 - g) provide a copy of the Seafarer's Medical Certificate
 - h) provide a copy of the applicant's passport
 - i) remit the fee (\$140.00) for issuing 'Certificate of Equivalency as a Ship's Cook'
- 5.3 The Bermuda Shipping and Maritime Authority (BSMA) will acknowledge the receipt of the application and will review the documents;
- 5.4 If the submission is accepted, the BSMA will issue a Bermuda 'Certificate of Equivalency as a Ship's Cook' which will be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue.

For More Information Please Contact

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