



South African Maritime Safety Authority

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Marine Notice No. 22 of 2014

Advanced tanker training – clarity on acceptable proof to complying with regulations for issue of endorsements

TO ALL SEAFARERS, TRAINING OFFICERS, TRAINING INSTITUTIONS PRINCIPAL OFFICERS EXAMINERS AND SURVEYOR SUPPORT CLERKS.

Summary

To avoid ambiguity in interpreting Regulation 74(2)(b); 74(3)(b); 75(2)(b) as to the meaning of the words “in a watchkeeping capacity” in relation to certificates of proficiency advanced training for Oil, Chemical and Gas Tankers. This Marine Notice sets out what is acceptable by SAMSMA to comply with this requirement.

1. SAMSMA has noted apparent ambiguity in the interpretation and application of Regulations 74(2)(b); 74(3)(b); 75(2)(b) of The Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013 (the Regulations). This Marine Notice sets out what is acceptable by SAMSMA in complying with this requirement.

2. In order for candidates to qualify for the issue of advanced tanker endorsements, candidates shall comply with the said regulations. Acceptability of proof of having complied with regulations is explained below from the Regulations;

Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers and any person with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on tankers shall hold a certificate in advanced training for tanker cargo operations¹. A candidate for a certificate in advanced training in tanker cargo operations shall—

(a) *hold a certificate in basic training in tanker cargo operations, and while holding this certificate;*

The Basic Training certificate for tanker cargo is issued by SAMSMA. The course attendance certificate on its own is not acceptable.

(b) *have completed, in the preceding five years, at least three months sea service in a watchkeeping capacity on tankers; and*

There are two requirements being addressed here:

1. Approved sea service – this sea service is for a candidate already holding the basic training in tanker cargo operations issued by SAMSMA. Many candidates, do not apply for this certificate of proficiency (basic tanker training) until they apply for their first Officer of the watch certificates of competency. This means their sea service which was attained after attending the basic course, does not count towards the seetime required for the advanced certificate of proficiency;

¹ Advanced training for Oil, Chemical and Gas cargo operations as applicable
MN 22 of 2014

2. Watchkeeping capacity – this can be qualified as a statement from the master that the candidate has been involved in “watchkeeping duties under the supervision of a certificated deck /engineer officer”. This can be in a form of a letter signed by the relevant Master or Chief Engineer or, in the case of a cadet, endorsed on their watchkeeping testimonial. This is done based on the sea service described above.

(c) *have completed approved advance training for tanker cargo operations and meet standards of competence specified in the Code.*

Self-explanatory.

3. It needs to be reiterated that the two certificates, basic training for tankers and advanced training for tankers, cannot be issued at the same time as the sea service to obtain advanced tanker certificates can only be served after candidate has been issued with basic training certificate of proficiency. This competency only lies with SAMSA examiners, and as such, candidates need to apply for this endorsement at the earliest convenient time for them. Upon application, the candidates needs to make a request for issue of interim certificate in terms of Regulation 10(3).

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SM 6/5/2/1

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