

## What happens if I have started training or sea service but not finished it when SeaCert comes in?

In most cases, if you have started training or sea service for a certificate before SeaCert comes in you will be able to apply for the new corresponding certificate using the training and sea service required for the old certificate.

You will have the option of completing the sea service for the old certificate or the new certificate. Where there has been a reduction in the sea service requirements for the new certificate, eg MEC 6 or SRL, you will need to complete the associated task book if you choose to take advantage of the reduced sea service.

## Operational limits

MNZ has developed a series of updated maps for operational limits. These are available by visiting our website.

The maps cover operational limits for:

- STCW-F and domestic fishing certificates
- domestic passenger and non-passenger certificates – vessels <24m coastal and offshore
- fishing vessels
- non-fishing vessels
- STCW vessels.

## How to find more information

For more information about SeaCert, visit our website:

[maritimenz.govt.nz/seacert](http://maritimenz.govt.nz/seacert)

This will be your main source of information about SeaCert.

You can also subscribe to MNZ publications, including *SeaChange* (MNZ's monthly e-newsletter) on our website.

[maritimenz.govt.nz/subscribe](http://maritimenz.govt.nz/subscribe)

## Update your details

If MNZ doesn't have your current contact details, we won't be able to let you know about any changes that affect you. Ensure we have your latest details by emailing us on

[qualifications@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:qualifications@maritimenz.govt.nz)

## Can't find an answer to your question online?

Email us on

[qualifications@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:qualifications@maritimenz.govt.nz)

Call us toll-free on

0508 22 55 22



**SeaCert**  
Seafarer Certification

**YOUR GUIDE**



## What is SeaCert?

SeaCert (Seafarer Certification) is the new Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) seafarer licensing framework for national and international certificates of competency and proficiency. It also sets out where seafarers can operate in local and international waters. Developed with the industry, SeaCert will replace the current qualifications and operational limits framework.

## The SeaCert framework

At the core of the SeaCert framework are Maritime Rule Parts 32, 34 and 35, which cover Seafarer Certification, Medical Standards, and Training and Examination respectively. The safe operation of a vessel by persons properly qualified under 32, 34 and 35 is then overseen by Part 31 – Crewing and Watchkeeping, and the vessel operates in the operating limits set out in Part 20.

MNZ provides advisory circulars and guidance and operational policy for all of these rules, which are available by visiting our website:

[maritimenz.govt.nz/rules](http://maritimenz.govt.nz/rules)



## Development

SeaCert's development began with substantial input from seafarers, in over 30 workshops held around the country. Many agencies and industry bodies have also assisted with the development of SeaCert, including:

- New Zealand Qualifications Authority
- Marine Transport Association
- Competenz
- New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen
- Maritime Union of New Zealand
- Seafood Industry Council
- New Zealand Fishing Industry Guild
- Department of Conservation
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, formerly Department of Labour
- Local Government New Zealand
- New Zealand Police
- Harbourmasters

Their input has helped shape SeaCert into a robust, competency-based system designed with seafarers in mind.

## Benefits provided by SeaCert

SeaCert has several advantages over the current system, including:

- increased recognition of New Zealand certificates overseas, making it easier for New Zealand seafarers to work in other jurisdictions
- new, simpler domestic certificate framework
- being competency-based
- more robust competency-based final examination framework (to replace the safety oral) with greater oversight by MNZ
- all seafarers' medical fitness assessed regularly
- better alignment with the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) near-coastal provisions and STCW-F
- specified operating limits permit
- safety-based standard coastal limit.

## How does SeaCert affect me?

From 1 April 2014, all seafarers will either have their certificates deemed to be new certificates, or will need to obtain a new certificate through the transition process. A key objective for SeaCert was that seafarers do not lose privileges. In some cases, they may in fact gain privileges as they transition from one certificate to another.

You will be able to continue to use your current certificate until it expires or, if it currently has no expiry date, up to and including **31 March 2019**, whichever is soonest. If you have a domestic certificate that will transition to an STCW certificate, you will need to transition to the new certificate by **31 December 2016** if you wish to exercise the full privileges of the certificate after that date.

## How does SeaCert affect industry?

SeaCert delivers a clear and up-to-date operational limits and certification framework that meets industry needs now and in the future. It will grow and strengthen the industry, with a more straightforward entry process, more entry points, and a more practical progression system.

MNZ is working towards increased web capability, with new guidance for seafarers available online, which will result in efficiency gains for both seafarers and their employers. Increased portability of certificates means a wider talent pool of seafarers to choose from – and enables seafarers to have certificates gained overseas recognised in New Zealand.

When SeaCert comes into force, all seafarers who want to keep using their certificates will either have their certificate **deemed** as equivalent to a new certificate, or will need to **transition** to a new certificate. The following is a summary of the transition process, but in all cases certificate holders should check MNZ's website for information on how they are affected.

## Carried over and deemed certificates

These are new certificates that are considered to be the same as the certificate in the previous Part 32, so your existing certificate will be treated as that new certificate. If a certificate is a 'deemed' certificate, then all you will need to do is revalidate it in the normal manner, subject to the applicable renewal requirements. If your current certificate (which is deemed to be the new certificate) has no expiry date, you will have up to and including **31 March 2019** to renew it.

## Certificates that need to transition

These are certificates that need to transition to a new, different certificate. Some certificates can transition to more than one new certificate. Seafarers who hold these will be able to apply for the most appropriate certificate that reflects their experience, training and seagoing service when SeaCert comes into effect on **1 April 2014**.

If your existing certificate already needs to be renewed, you must apply for the new certificate. If the existing certificate has no expiry date, you have to have your certificate transitioned before **1 April 2019**.

There are some exceptions for holders of NZOM or NZOW. Visit our website for more details.

## Legacy certificates

Legacy certificates are those which are no longer issued by MNZ but remained valid. SeaCert equivalents have been identified but because of the significant developments since they were issued (eg ship operation, technology), you will need to apply to MNZ to transition to an equivalent, new certificate.

All legacy certificate holders have up to and including **31 March 2019** to transition to the equivalent certificate identified by MNZ. However, seafarers wishing to transition to STCW certificates will need to apply to do so by **31 December 2016** if they wish to continue to work on ships that require STCW certificates.

When assessing transition applications involving legacy certificates, MNZ will take account of the years of experience certificate holders have in exercising the privileges of their certificate.