In response to COVID-19 Maritime NZ has taken steps to allow seafarers to work with expired certificates in certain circumstances.

**Ancillary certificates**

A general exemption from the requirements in Maritime Rules 31.25(2) and 32.16(1) was granted to seafarers who hold or are applying for an STCW Certificate of Competency (CoC) / Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) or a certificate of recognition of their STCW CoC / CoP. This exemption temporarily removed the requirement to demonstrate continued competence under Schedule One of Rule Part 32 (provided that the seafarer previously held the required ancillary proficiency).

This general exemption was originally granted on 30 March 2020 and expires on 19 May 2021. This general exemption will not be re-issued.

These are the STCW ancillary certificates that this applies to:

- basic fire-prevention and fire-fighting
- basic personal survival
- survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats
- advanced fire-fighting
- fast rescue boats
- crowd management training
- safety training (passengers in passenger spaces).
- crisis management and human behaviour, and
- passenger safety, cargo safety and hull integrity training

**What happens next?**

Seafarers who hold or are applying for a CoC or CoP are encouraged to enrol in relevant ancillary course(s). Maritime NZ may accept training proficiency certificates from non-approved schools.
If this is not possible, seafarers can apply for an individual exemption. However, it is important to understand that obtaining an exemption is not guaranteed and so every effort should be made to obtain a training proficiency certificate. Further guidance is being developed for seafarers with expired or expiring certificates who are unable to enrol in relevant ancillary course(s) due to the current COVID-19 situation.

Maritime NZ is continuing to monitor the situation with COVID-19 and will update this page with any changes and additional information as and when it becomes available.

**Applying for an individual exemption?**

Send the following information to exemptions.officer@maritimenz.govt.nz.

1. Complete the [Seafarer Exemption Application form](exemptions.officer@maritimenz.govt.nz).

2. Provide the following:
   - evidence that you are enrolled in relevant ancillary course/s or have not been able to enrol in the relevant course(s)
   - record of sea service within the last 5 years (i.e. statement of sea service from employer) including:
     - any evidence of shipboard sea service within the last 5 years
     - any evidence of shipboard drills undertaken within the last 5 years.

3. Confirm which STCW ancillary certificate/s that your exemption application applies to.

The assessment of exemption applications are currently charged at an hourly rate of $245. Properly completed applications that provide all the required information should minimise the processing time, however some applications may require further assessment.

**Contact us**

If you have any questions please email seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz or if you need further information about exemptions, please email our Exemptions Officer exemptions.officer@maritimenz.govt.nz.