



# South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 24 April 2018

## Marine Notice No. 12 of 2018

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### Submission of Sea Service for Port Operations or Shift Work.

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TO ALL SEAFARERS, SHIP OPERATORS & OWNERS, EXAMINERS, AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

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#### *Summary*

This Marine Notice provides guidance and means for seafarers applying for assessment for a Certificate of Competence (other than ratings), to demonstrate more effectively sea service on Port Operations (or similar) vessels, operating with personnel on shift work.

The *Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013 (as amended) Section 77 to 84*; provides guidance for seafarers on the requirements for the provision of evidence of sea service.

Section 78 and 81 refer:

#### ***“78 Proof of qualifying service***

- (1) A candidate must produce proof of qualifying service to the examiner's satisfaction.*
- (2) The examiner may require that the candidate explain to the examiner's satisfaction any period of discontinuity in qualifying service.”*

#### ***“81 Calculating qualifying service***

- (1) Qualifying service shall be calculated from the date of engagement on a ship to the date of discharge from the ship, and is calculated by taking the actual days between the days of engagement and discharge, both inclusive, and reckoning 30 days to a month, 12 months to a year.*
- (2) Qualifying service performed on vessels restricted to port operations shall be calculated as follows:*
  - (a) a shift of at least eight hours performed during a 24-hour period is equivalent to one day's qualifying service.*
  - (b) a shift of more than eight hours shall not count as more than one days' qualifying service. “*

For those operating on vessels regularly proceeding to sea this requirement (among others) is met by the provision of a seafarer's record book, detailing the required service; duly stamped with the vessel stamp and signed by the vessel's master.

For vessels engaged in Port operations or similar shift work, seafarers are often employed by contractual agreement, without a seafarers' record book, as the use of the same is impractical. Seafarers employed as such are also most often not permanently accommodated on board.

The provision of sea service in this instance is therefore more challenging. This has in the past led to irregularities in the format of sea service provided as evidence, inconsistencies in the interpretation and provision of requirements, and also fraudulent claims.

In order to facilitate the demonstration of sea service for those seafarers engaged under these conditions, and to streamline the application process, SAMSA strongly advises the use of the attached format (Annex 1), when submitting evidence of sea service for Port Operations and the like.

In considering the aforementioned, the following should be noted:

The burden of proving sea service lies with the applicant. A day of work is calculated as 8 hours or more in a 24 hour period. No additional hours worked in a 24 hour period are carried over to the following 24 hour period.

This guidance does not replace the requirements and specifics of the applicable regulations.

Each day of service recorded in the attached format should be recorded as indicated, and signed by the master.

**24 April 2018**

**SM6/5/2/1**

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**Annex 1**

**Sea Service Record - Port Operations / Shift Work**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID No: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year : \_\_\_\_\_

Day	Vessel	Tonnage	GT/kW	Capacity	Start Time	Finish Time	Hours	Master	Signature
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
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26									
27									
28									
29									
30									
31									
Total									