

VERIFICATION OF SAMSA ISSUED CERTIFICATES

ALL SAMSA PERSONNEL, FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATORS, PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS (PSCO), SHIP AGENTS, PORT AUTHORITIES, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, SEAFARERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

ISSUE DATE	24 August 2021	EXPIRY DATE	23 August 2026 or unless withdrawn	REFERENCE	SM6/5/2/1/MN
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Marine Notice's affected

<i>Cancelled or superseded:</i>	MN 39 of 2016	<i>Read in conjunction with:</i>	N/A
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SUMMARY

To inform the public about the updated system used for the verification of certificates issued by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), and to provide guidance on its use.

Introduction

1. All STCW related certificates issued by SAMSA include a 7-digit certificate number. This certificates may be verified using the method described in this Marine Notice.
2. Since then, all new certificates issued under the Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Safe Manning) Regulations, 2021 (herein referred to as the Regulations), and the preceding regulations, have been migrated to the new (7 digit) format. This applies to new certificates, or revalidation of existing certificates.
3. With this migration, all certificates issued in the format (first used in 2016) can now be verified using the electronic method provided in this Marine Notice.

Process and the System

4. From the date of publication of this Marine Notice, SAMSA will cease manual verifications of all new format certificates in favour of the new automated electronic system. All persons who have sent a verification request and have not received a response, must resubmit using the new electronic verification system.
5. The electronic verification system can be accessed via the SAMSA website or via the link provided here: <http://applications.samsa.org.za/verification%20and%20extensions>
6. In using the verification system, the following should be noted:
 - 6.1. All fields must be completed. Fields are not case sensitive. If a passport number is entered, this should include any alpha numeric characters as reflected on the passport eg PN123456 (PN must be included but is not case sensitive).
 - 6.2. Candidate details must be as per the certificate, i.e. if certificate has an ID Number, the ID number must be used for verification. In the case of Passport Numbers, the passport number in use shall be the one on the Certificate, even if expired, as it is the one on record.
 - 6.3. To ensure group (more than one request) verifications are more efficient, select "**Group**" in the drop-down menu to ensure the applicant details are not erased.

7. During the period of the COVID-19 pandemic where SAMSA has extended the validity of certificates until 31 July 2022, the system will also be used for the certificate extension process- following the same guidelines indicated herein.

System responses

8. The verification system is set up to process all requests once at midday South African time (GMT +2). Please allow up to 24 hrs for a response.
9. The format of the responses will be as per appendices attached, viz:
 - 9.1. Appendix 1- Certificate Verification sample
 - 9.2. Appendix 2- Unsuccessful Verification sample
 - 9.3. Appendix 3- Certificate Extension sample
 - 9.4. Appendix 4- Unsuccessful Extension sample
10. The verifier must check the response to ensure the accuracy of information. For unsuccessful responses – verify that the two fields provided in the response to ensure that it matches the fields on the certificates.
11. Where responses are unclear – the applicant must forward the response, together with a copy of the certificate in question to the Registrar of Seafarers for further investigation via e-mail to seafarers@samsa.org.za
12. Verification of Provisional Certificates - issued to seafarers who have successfully passed a Level 3 Assessment - will present with blank fields for Date of Issue and Expiry Date. ‘Successful’ responses must be accepted as being valid. If not valid for other reasons, the system will give an ‘Unsuccessful’ response.

Exclusions

13. Certificates issued by SAMSA Accredited training organisations are not verified by SAMSA. Persons wishing to verify these certificates must address their requests directly with the Training Organisations.
14. Certificates issued by SAMSA without the 7 (seven) digit certificate numbers may only be verified manually via e-mail requests to the Registrar of Seafarers to seafarers@samsa.org.za

General

15. The guidelines in this Marine Notice also apply to the extension of certificates, provided that such option or service is available under the conditions set out in the relevant instruments.

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Appendix 1 - Certificate Verification

From: [Verifications Certification](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: 19 August 2021 Certificate Verification for [REDACTED] 10:50:45

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for enquiring on the validity of the Certificate for [REDACTED]. The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) [REDACTED] es that the [REDACTED] e you enquired about is;

Seafarer's name	[REDACTED]		
Date of birth	[REDACTED]	nationality	South African
Certificate	[REDACTED]		
Certificate Number	1 [REDACTED]	STCW Reference	II/2
Issue/Revalidation Date	2 [REDACTED]-07	Date of expiry	2026-01-06

Competency details

Capacity	Limitation
Master	None
Chief Mate	None
Officer in charge of a navigational watch	None

Function	Level	Limitation
Navigation	Management	None
Cargo handling and stowage	Management	None
Controlling the operation of the ship and care for persons on board	Management	None
Radiocommunications	Operational	None

Medical details

The seafarer held a valid medical certificate at the time that the certificate was issued, it is a requirement that the seafarer is able to produce a valid medical certificate, in accordance with the STCW Convention, whilst serving on board a ship. Regards

The Registrar of Seafarers - [SAMSA](#)

Appendix 2 - Unsuccessful Verification

From: Verifications Certification
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Unsuccessful Verification for [REDACTED]
Date: 20 August 2021 12:11:13

Dear [REDACTED],

Your request to verify the certificate with the following details has been received:

Certificate number	[REDACTED]
ID/Passport Number	[REDACTED]

Unfortunately the details you provided do not correspond to our records. Please check that the information above matches that on the certificate which you are verifying

Alternatively, send a scanned copy of certificate to (seafarers@samsa.org.za) for manual verification. Regards

Registrar of Seafarers

Appendix 3 - Certificate Extension

From: Extensions Certification
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Certificate Extension for [REDACTED]
Date: 20 August 2021 12:11:13

Dear [REDACTED]

South African Maritime Safety Authority

Extension of validity of Certificate(s)

This extension is issued in terms of the Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Safe Manning) Regulations, 2021. This action is taken in line with the International Maritime Organisations' (IMO) circular letter no. 4204/add.5 which encouraged the parties to "take a pragmatic and practical approach?" in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) has granted a general extension of certificates until 31 July 2022 to all seafarers whose certificates expire during the period ending 31 May 2022.

This is to confirm that the holder has been granted such extension on application by SAMSA:

Name and Surname	[REDACTED]
ID/Passport Number	[REDACTED]
Certificate Title	[REDACTED]arge of Engineering Watch or
Certificate number	[REDACTED]ted duty engineer
Certificate Valid Until	[REDACTED]-29
Extension Granted Until	31 July 2022

In addition to the extension above, all other proficiency certificates and endorsements supplementary to the certificates are also extended until 31 July 2022.

Proficiency details

this field may appear as a Question Mark "?" or a dash "-"

Certificate of Proficiency
Basic training ? STCW Code A-VI/1
Personal survival techniques ? STCW Code A-VI/1-1
Fire prevention and fire fighting ? STCW Code A-VI/1-2
Elementary first aid ? STCW Code A-VI/1-3
Personal safety and social responsibilities ? STCW Code A-VI/1-4
Advanced fire fighting ? STCW Code A-VI/3
Medical first aid ? STCW Code A-VI/4-1
Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats ? STCW Code A-VI/2-1
Designated security duties ? STCW Code A-VI/6-2

Issued on behalf of the Registrar of Seafarers Date : 2021/08/20 12:08:46

Appendix 4 - Unsuccessful Extension

From: [Extensions Certification](#)
To: MLFMTCRWDOCPH@maersk.com
Subject: Unsuccessful Extension for Feyder Diego Ramon Quartermaine
Date: 20 August 2021 12:11:15

Dear Ma. Antonette S, Your request to extend the certificate with the following details has been received:

Certificate number	[REDACTED]
ID/Passport Number	[REDACTED]

Unfortunately the details you provided do not correspond to our records. Please check that the information above matches that on the certificate which you are verifying

Alternatively, send a scanned copy of certificate to (seafarers@samsa.org.za) for manual verification. Regards

Registrar of Seafarers