
Circular 2014/001

Ship's Cook

Date: 22 October 2014

To whom it may concern,

This circular is required as a result of the Royal decree of 4 September 2014, amending the RD of 24 May 2006 relating to certifications of seafarers.

Every seafarer in the function of ship's cook on board of a Belgian sea-going vessel – with the exception of fishing vessels and military ships - shall hold a mandatory 'Certificate of qualification as a ship's cook' or a Belgian 'Official declaration of qualification as a ship's cook'.

Requirements to get a 'Certificate of qualification as a ship's cook'

Every candidate for certification as ship's cook shall:

- a) be not less than 18 years of age
- b) have completed an approved special training¹
- c) have completed approved seagoing service in a function in the galley of not less than 3 months
- d) have a valid medical certificate
- e) have completed a basic safety training, VI/1
- f) have completed a security awareness training, VI/6-1 or security duties training, VI/6-2 if applicable

As a transitional measure, the Belgian Directorate-general of Maritime Transport will consider seafarers to have met the requirements of this regulation if they had an employment contract on a Belgian Flag ship before the date of 20 August 2014 and if they have served in the capacity of ship's cook for a period of not less than 12 months within the last 60 months on board of a Belgian flag ship prior to the entry into force of the Royal decree of 4 September 2014.

Requirements to get an 'Official declaration of qualification as a ship's cook'

Belgian Directorate-general of Maritime Transport will recognize certificates of qualification as a ship's cook issued by another MLC-member state. This means that a seafarer-cook from a MLC-Member state, employed on a Belgian flagged ship, can obtain an Belgian endorsement of his national certificate.

The conditions mentioned under d), e) and f) will be verified by the Belgian administration prior to the issuance of the 'Official declaration of qualification as a ship's cook'.

¹ In order to be admitted to the special training, the candidate must possess a Belgian approved certificate of an general training for cooks or an assimilated certificate

Since 15 October 2014 the Directorate-general of Maritime Transport has started to issue certification for ship's cook.

All certificates are valid for 5 years on condition that there is continuity of qualification.

If there was any interruption of more than 5 years , qualification should be demonstrated.

Any question regarding this may be directed to:

Maritime Inspectorate
Recognition of Institutions
Posthoflei 5
2600 Berchem



Ir. Bart Heylbroeck
Naval Architect – Director
Belgian Maritime Inspectorate