

Marine Information Bulletin

Commercial licence – Master Class 4

Limits of licence

The holder of this licence can act as:

- Master of:
 - A commercial ship 35 m or more but less than 80 m within 50 nautical miles (nm) of the coast or in the Great Barrier Reef region or Torres Strait zone.
 - Commercial ships less than 35 m in length to within 600 nm seaward from the coast or the boundaries of designated sheltered water limits.
- Chief Mate in:
 - Commercial ships less than 80 metres in length of within 600 nautical miles seaward from the coast or the boundaries of designated sheltered water limits; and
 - Commercial ships less than 35 metres in length for unlimited operations.

Note: This licence is required to be revalidated every five years.

Application for licence

Candidates must personally lodge or make appropriate arrangements to lodge their marine licence application on form F3103 with supporting documents at a Maritime Safety Queensland regional office.

Evidence of the prerequisites listed below must accompany the marine licence application. If supplying copies of original documents they must be suitably certified by a Justice of the Peace or a Commissioner of Declarations.

Prerequisites

To be eligible for an oral assessment by Maritime Safety Queensland candidates must:

- Be 18 years of age (evidence of identity required).
- Provide a current certificate of medical fitness (issued within the last two years), including eyesight test as defined in medical fitness requirements (USL Schedule 1).
Note: Candidates should undertake eyesight and colour vision testing before commencing training and the issue of a commercial licence. Maritime Safety Queensland may issue a licence restricted to daylight hours if the minimum standard for colour vision is not met.
- Be the holder of a licence as Master Class 5, Skipper Grade 3, Second Mate, Mate Class 4 or Skipper Grade 2.
- Provide the notification of result of sea service assessment – form F4686 (valid for one year).

- Provide two recent colour passport photographs (taken within the last 12 months).
- Provide proof of a Marine Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency (MROCP) or a Marine Radio Operators VHF Certificate of Proficiency (MROVPC).
- Provide a TDM40307 Certificate IV in Transport Distribution (Coastal Maritime Operations – Master Class 4) attesting to the satisfactory completion of the required competencies (within the last five years) issued by an authorised registered training organisation (RTO).
- Pay the prescribed fees.

For further details refer to general licence profiles on Maritime Safety Queensland's website

Note: the units of competency for Elements of Shipboard Safety, and Occupational Health and Safety at Sea are perpetual.

Qualifying sea service

Eighteen months of 'appropriate' sea service. Examiners will use the following as a guide to assess the appropriateness of a candidate's sea service towards a licence.

- Since gaining a licence as an Unrestricted Master Class 5 or Skipper Grade 3:
 - 18 months appropriate watchkeeping service in the last five years.
 - 9 months appropriate watchkeeping service in commercial or fishing ships outside smooth and partially smooth waters.
 - 6 months appropriate watchkeeping service in commercial ships less than 80 metres in length.
- Since gaining a licence as a Second Mate or Mate Class 4 – 12 months appropriate watchkeeping service in the last five years including
 - 6 months appropriate watchkeeping outside smooth and partially smooth water.
 - 6 months appropriate watchkeeping in commercial ships less than 80 metres in length.
- Since gaining a licence as a Skipper Grade 2:
 - 3 months sea service on a trading ship.

Note: In assessing watch-keeping service, the authority shall have regard to the following criteria:

- All watch-keeping shall be on ships not less than 15 metres in length.
- 12 months watch-keeping in the last five years
- 6 months of watch-keeping service on trading vessels.
- 6 months watch-keeping on commercial vessels under 80 metres in length.

Sea service assessment

Candidates must personally lodge or make appropriate arrangements to lodge their sea service assessment application on form (F4634) at a Maritime Safety Queensland regional office.

Sea service will be assessed using the National Maritime Safety Committee's (NMSC) Principles for Assessing Sea Service – Circular N° 03-2 issued on 7 August 2003. A copy of this document can be accessed at www.msq.qld.gov.au/Licensing/Commercial/Sea-service.aspx.

Candidates must provide a Workplace-based Task Book (WBT book) signed off by an authorised RTO.

Satisfactory completion of the WBT book will, where applicable, lead to a reduction of 50% of the qualifying sea service.

Under the Record of Service (ROS) book system, sea service is assessed in the basic unit of a "month". A month is defined as a minimum of 150 hours of work over a period of at least 20 days.

Maritime Safety Queensland requires candidates to gain appropriate quality sea service by competently performing the duties relevant to the level and discipline of the licence required. For example, performing the duties and accepting the responsibilities that would be comparable to that of a master, watchkeeper or deckhand onboard a ship.

Maritime Safety Queensland may request supporting documentation (i.e. statutory declarations) to support ROS book entries.

Ratification of sea service does not automatically constitute acceptance. The Maritime Safety Queensland examiner determines final acceptance.

Note: Falsifying sea service is an indictable offence.

Oral assessment

Candidates are required to undertake an oral assessment, independent of the RTO, conducted by Maritime Safety Queensland before being issued a licence.

An appointment for an oral assessment can only be made

after all of the requirements for the licence have been satisfied.

Candidates who successfully complete the oral assessment may request a temporary authority to allow them to operate immediately.

Information

Information on RTO's locations and Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to marine licensing can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website at www.msq.qld.gov.au and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices.

Airlie Beach	(07) 4946 2200
Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500
Cairns	(07) 4052 7400
Gladstone	(07) 4973 1200
Hervey Bay	(07) 4194 9600
Mackay	(07) 4944 3700
Mooloolaba	(07) 5477 8425
Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
Southport	(07) 5539 7300
Townsville	(07) 4726 3400

Note: If there is an inconsistency between this document and previously issued documents in relation to the subject matter, this document supersedes advice conveyed in previous documents dealing with these matters. Previous documents found to be in conflict with this document (or parts thereof) will be updated or withdrawn at the earliest convenient opportunity.