

Seafarer Licensing

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS: MARINE ENGINEER (CLASS 6) CERTIFICATE

Please read carefully before starting to fill out application:

General Information:

- You must be at least 18 years old
- To take the examination you must hold a yellow examination permit. To get this permit you should send an application to Maritime New Zealand 21 days ***before*** the start of your MEC6 course. If you aren't doing a course (and you don't have to) you should send your application ***at least 21 days before*** the date on which you wish to be examined.
- With your application you should send all the documents on the list at the end of these guidelines; if you don't include **all** these documents, your application will be sent back to you.
- Documents sent with your application should be either **originals** or **certified** copies. If you include ordinary photocopies your application will be sent back.
- Originals of personal documents (proof of sea service, testimonials etc) will be returned to you after checking.

Sea Service:

You need to prove:

Either (a) That you have done at least two years formal engineering training – generally as fitter/turner or heavy diesel mechanic, though other types may be considered – and three months sea service;

Or (b) That you've done 24 months sea service.

Notes:

1. Sea service for MEC6 can be served on any size of motor vessel but you must have been involved in operating the machinery – routine checks at sea, routine maintenance, small (or large) repairs, pumping bilges, taking on fuel etc. This must be specified in your proof of service.
2. All the service for (a) must have been on diesel engine vessels. At least 12 months of the sea service for (b) must have been on diesel engine vessels.
3. All the service for (a) must have been within the last **five** years. At least twelve months of the sea service for (b) must have been in the ten years immediately before the application.
4. Proof of service is preferably by sea service certificates (a blank form is part of this package – please copy as necessary) but can be by a seamen's Record Book (available from Maritime NZ for a small charge), letters from employers or – as a last resort, and generally only for self-employed persons – by Statutory Declaration (blank form also included with this package). However you prove your service, please ensure that the following information is clearly mentioned:
 - Name of vessel
 - Engine power
 - Type of engine (petrol, diesel etc)
 - Your engineering duties
 - Start and finish dates of service
 - Amount of qualifying service claimed between these dates.

5. Qualifying service is basically time at sea, but some port time may also count – such as survey time, repairs or reconditioning, slip or drydock time. Time away from the vessel – on leave, for instance - cannot be counted, nor can extended periods in port, perhaps waiting for the weather to moderate, when no engine work is being done.
6. Part-time service can be counted at 1500 hours being equivalent to one year's service, or 125 hours being equivalent to one month's service; only eight hours can be counted in any one day, and you can't claim more service than the calendar time. For instance, if you do 150 hours in one calendar month you can only claim one month's service not $150/125 = 1.2$ month's service.
7. Time spent (with engineering duties) on pleasure boats can be counted; four days time on pleasure boats counts as one day of qualifying time. This time must be properly documented.
8. Sea service will not be counted if you were less than 15 years of age at the time.

Testimonials:

- You must supply a testimonial or testimonials from your employer(s) as to your conduct, ability, sobriety and experience during at least the last twelve months of your sea service (or during all your service if less than 12 months). This can be part of your proof of sea service (the Skipper's Testimonial towards the bottom of sea service certificates is one way) or a separate document.
- You must also supply a character reference – what you are like as a person. This should be from someone who's known you for at least a year, but who isn't a family member. It must refer to the year immediately before your application.
- Both these testimonials must be signed, and must show the date on which they were written.

Other requirements:

- You must hold a current first aid certificate, for a two-day (16 hour) course such as St John Workplace First Aid or Red Cross Comprehensive. You don't need the first aid certificate to take the MEC6 examination but your certificate won't be issued until you send it in.

The above is a condensed version of what is required for MEC6. The full, legal requirements are set out in Maritime Rule 32.22, which you can find on the website www.maritimenz.govt.nz under Rules. When consulting the Rule, don't forget also to check for any amendments.

Applications, including all documents, should be sent to:

Maritime New Zealand
PO Box 27 006
WELLINGTON

All applications are vetted by the Police. The 'Consent to disclosure' page in the 'fit and proper person' questionnaire must be completed and sent in with the rest of the documents, or there **will** be delays in issuing the examination permit. The Police check alone takes at least a week which is why we need the application at least 21 days prior to the examination.

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DOCUMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED WITH APPLICATIONS

When you apply for an engineering certificate of competency you should supply the following documents, to reach Maritime NZ before the start of your course. If you have already completed the course, or if a course is not necessary, your application should reach Maritime NZ **at least 21 days** before the examination date.

All documents should be either **originals** or **certified copies**. Ordinary photocopies are **not** acceptable. Testimonials should always show the date on which they were written.

Required

- 1/ A **completed** application form.
- 2/ The administration fee.
- 3/ A **completed** Fit and Proper Person questionnaire. Residents in countries other than New Zealand should also supply a clearance from the Police of those countries.
- 4/ Proof of age and identity, e.g. birth certificate or passport. (Not required if you already hold a New Zealand Certificate of Competency.)
- 5/ If applicable, proof of initial training e.g. apprenticeship contract, Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship, trade certificate or similar.
- 6/ Proof of sea service. This may be by way of discharge certificates, chief engineer's references, letters from your employer, sea service certificates or similar.
*Proof of service should include the name of the vessel, its area of operations (foreign-going or coastal), engine type and power (kW), the **engineering** duties you performed (routine checks, minor maintenance, major maintenance etc), dates of service, amount of service claimed between these dates.*
- 7/ A satisfactory testimonial as to your experience, conduct, sobriety and ability onboard ship during at least your most recent twelve months worth of service. (May be a testimonial or testimonials from your chief engineer or your employers or both). **Please ensure this reference is dated.**
- 8/ A character reference from someone who knows you well (not a member of your family) covering at least the last twelve months. **(Please ensure this reference is dated)**
- 9/ ***Before issue*** of your new certificate you will have to supply some ancillary certificates:
 - First Aid certificate (St John Workplace First Aid or similar).

The First Aid certificate must be current.

Applications and supporting documents should be sent to:

Maritime New Zealand
PO Box 27 006
WELLINGTON

A **certified copy** of a document is one certified by a Justice of the Peace (lists of JPs can be found in the Yellow Pages) or similar as being a true and accurate copy. For Maritime NZ purposes only copies may be certified by the Maritime Safety Inspectors at any of our offices around the country.

A **statutory declaration** should be made on the approved form before a Justice of the Peace or any other person authorised to administer an oath under Section 9 of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.

Original documents supplied to support an application will be returned to you after checking. For safety, we recommend that original documents should be couriered to us, and we will return them the same way.