

MCA announce alternative route into superyacht qualifications

Applies to: RYA Yachtmaster Ocean Examiners; Principals of centres recognised to offer Sail and Motor Cruising courses; RYA Yachtmaster Instructors

Introduction

The pathway to a Certificate of Competency as an Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch on yachts less than 3000gt (OOW (Yachts 3000gt)) is given in Section 3.3 of [MSN 1858](#). This details the mandatory training and sea time requirements and includes a requirement for candidates to hold a commercially endorsed RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competence (CoC) and a RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster Offshore shorebased course completion certificate. An alternative route has recently been announced in [MIN 580](#) which allows a combination of a commercially endorsed RYA Yachtmaster Coastal CoC together with a RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Course Completion Certificate to be submitted in lieu of the Yachtmaster Offshore CoC.

Annex 1 of this document gives an overview of the routes into OOW (Yacht 3000gt) and above.

As a result of these changes there have been some amendments to the eligibility requirements for the RYA Yachtmaster Coastal and RYA Yachtmaster Ocean examinations.

Those delivering training in the RYA Yachtmaster scheme should familiarise themselves with MSN 1858, MIN 580 and the guidance given within this document.

Eligibility for examination for RYA Yachtmaster Coastal CoC

The practical course must be 5 days long and cannot include the RYA Yachtmaster Coastal exam within those 5 days. As the practical course primarily covers passage making, navigational strategy and vessel management, candidates should be encouraged to undergo an exam preparation course prior to taking the RYA Yachtmaster Coastal exam.

It is strongly recommended that candidates with limited skippering experience on vessels less than 24m gain boat handling experience on appropriate vessels, such as larger tenders and other vessels greater than 7m waterline length, prior to their RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Course.

Eligibility for the RYA Yachtmaster Coastal exam now has three options, listed below, with 2b being the new option for those completing a Coastal Skipper practical course.

1. **Without RYA Coastal Skipper practical certificate:** 800 miles, 30 days on board, 12 night hours, two days as skipper all on vessels under 24m in length, or
2. **With Coastal Skipper practical certificate:**
 - a. 400 miles, 20 days on board, 12 night hours and two days as skipper, all on vessels under 24m in length, or
 - b. 800 miles, 30 days on board and 12 night hours on yachts up to 3000gt, and two days as skipper on vessels less than 24m.

Summary:

The UK's Maritime & Coastguard Agency announce an alternative route to Officer of the Watch (Yachts 3000gt) utilising the RYA Yachtmaster Coastal Certificate of Competence.

Sea time on yachts over 24m in length and less than 3000gt can now be accepted for eligibility for the RYA Yachtmaster Coastal examination IF accompanied with an RYA Coastal Skipper Practical course completion certificate.

OOW (Yachts 3000gt) can be accepted as eligibility for examination for RYA Yachtmaster Ocean oral examination

Note: Successful RYA Yachtmaster Ocean exam candidates not holding an RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competence will receive an RYA Yachtmaster Ocean Oral Pass Certificate rather than an RYA Yachtmaster Ocean Certificate of Competence.

Related documents:

[MSN 1858](#)

[MIN 580](#)

For guidance on other areas of RYA Training see www.rya.org.uk/coursestraining/resources

[Progression to Chief Mate Yachts less than 3000gt unlimited area \(Chief Mate \(Yacht 3000gt\)\)](#)

The pathway to Chief Mate (Yacht 3000gt), as detailed in MSN 1858, requires candidates to hold a RYA Yachtmaster Ocean CoC and a RYA Yachtmaster Ocean Shorebased Course Completion Certificate.

To enable those using the alternative Coastal route to progress to Chief Mate, the OOW (Yachts 3000gt) may be used in lieu of the RYA Yachtmaster Offshore CoC for eligibility for the RYA Yachtmaster Ocean Oral Exam. Upon successful completion of the oral exam, the RYA will issue a pass certificate rather than a RYA Yachtmaster Ocean Certificate of Competence. This pass certificate may be used as eligibility for the Chief Mate Yacht 3000gt examination.

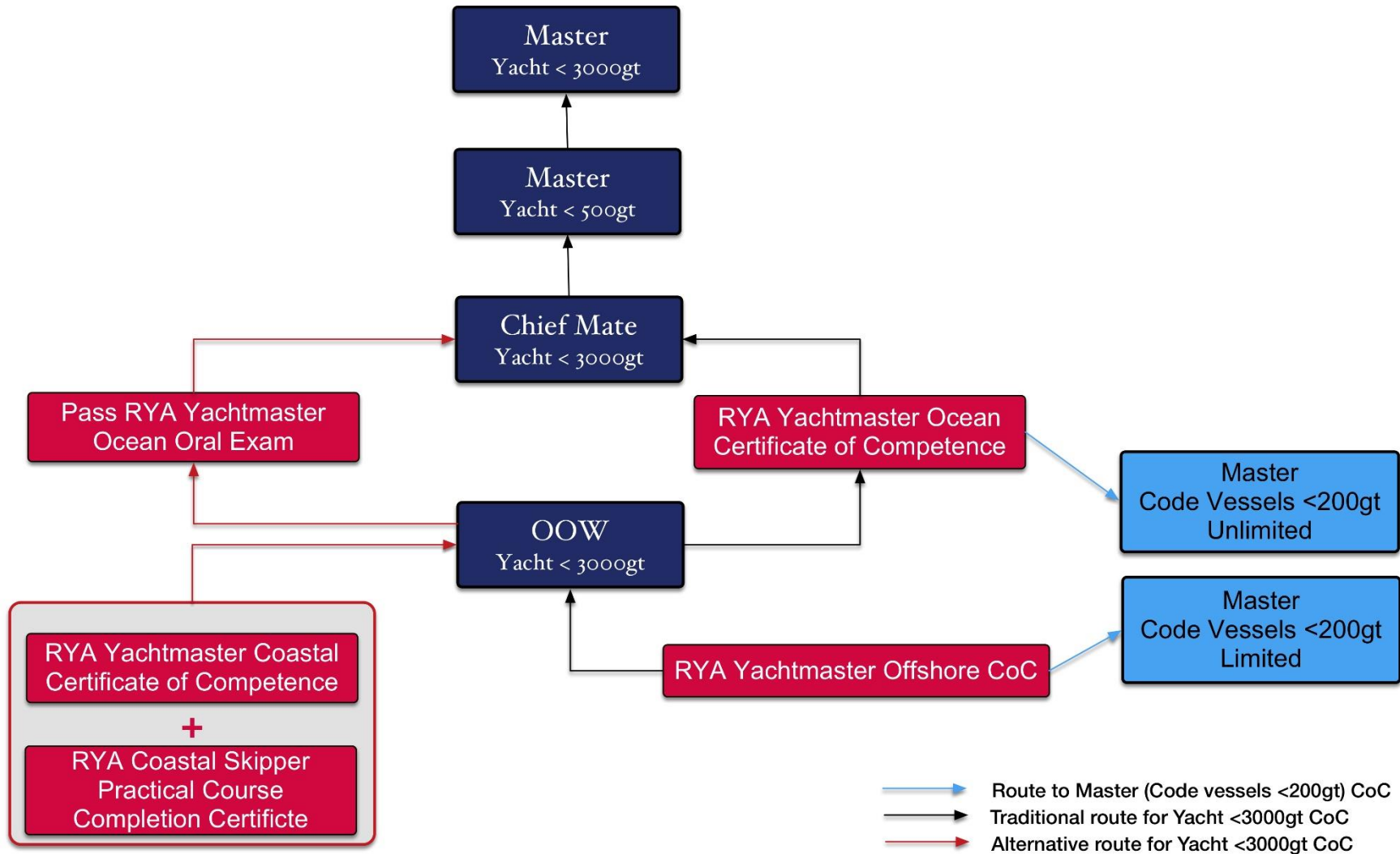
All other prerequisites for the Yachtmaster Ocean Oral exam must be complied with as detailed on the RYA website. Annex 2 details the acceptance of sea time on yachts up to 3000gt.

If at a future date the candidate gains a RYA Yachtmaster Offshore CoC they may be retrospectively issued with a RYA Yachtmaster Ocean CoC upon request. The designation as Sail or Power will be dictated by the designation of the Yachtmaster Offshore CoC.

[The RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster Offshore and RYA Yachtmaster Ocean Shorebased Course Completion Certificates](#)

Where the MCA requires an RYA shorebased course completion certificate as part of their eligibility criteria the end of course assessments must be taken under invigilated conditions at an RYA Recognised Training Centre.

Annex 1: Overview of the RYA Yachtmaster Schemes Integration with the MCA Yachts up to 3000gt Certificates of Competence



Note: All RYA Yachtmaster Certificates of Competence must be accompanied by the appropriate Yachtmaster shorebased certificate.

Annex 2: Acceptance of sea time and qualifying passages accrued on vessels greater than 24m LOA and 200gt but less than 3000gt¹

	Days on board		Days as skipper		Qualifying passages		Night Hours		Mileage	
Yachtmaster Coastal CoC	30	Y ²	2	N	Not defined	N/A	12 hours	Y ³	800	Y ⁴
Yachtmaster Offshore CoC	50	Y	5	N	5 x 60M passages, including 2 as skipper and 2 overnight	Y ⁵	2 of the 60M qualifying passages	Y ⁵	2,500	Y ⁶
Yachtmaster Ocean CoC	Not defined	N/A	Candidate must have acted as skipper, mate or watch officer for the duration of the passage	N/A	1 passage greater than 600M, 96 hours and greater than 50M from land for at least 200M	Y ⁷	Not defined	N/A	See qualifying passage	Y ⁷

Notes

1. Required sea time must be accrued on the type of vessel used for the exam, ie. sail or motor.
2. If involved in navigational watch keeping and other duties related to the management of the vessel and supported with a Coastal Skipper Practical certificate.
3. If involved in navigational watch keeping during these hours, up to maximum of 8 hours and supported with a Coastal Skipper Practical certificate.
4. Only if supported with a RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Certificate.
5. Yes for non-skipped passages and only if involved in navigational watch keeping duties. Skipped passages cannot be carried out on vessels greater than 24m.
6. Up to a maximum of 1,250M on a yacht greater than 24m.
7. Passages on vessels greater than 24m and 200gt can only be used if the candidate holds an appropriate STCW Deck Officer certificate, such as OOW (Yacht 3000gt) or higher, which enables them to stand as a watch keeping officer.