



the
mackinnon
partnership

**Maritime Skills Alliance Qualifications
and Curriculum Strategy Action Plan
2010-2012**

DRAFT v1

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1. Part A

Scope

- 1.1 This Action Plan shows how the priorities set out in the Qualification Strategy for the Maritime Sector will be realised. It aims to provide a common programme of work for the members of the Maritime Skills Alliance (MSA) and show how they will work with other partners to achieve these aims. Other partners include:
- The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (as a regulator);
 - SQA (as the awarding body for the Maritime Studies Qualification);
 - The Royal Yachting Association;
 - Royal National Lifeboat Institution;
 - Funders in each of the four nations.
- 1.2 The sector has developed a single action plan covering the whole UK maritime sector which builds on existing MSA activity and links with the priorities identified in the Qualification Strategy. These include activities that will:
- attract new entrants and improving career progression;
 - provide flexible career paths;
 - improve the relevance of accredited qualifications for employers;
 - raise business leadership and management skills.

Methodology

- 1.3 Timescales have meant that the action plan has been developed alongside the Qualification Strategy. The development process has required on-going consultation with key stakeholders and because the MSA is a strategic alliance the action plan must be agreed by all MSA members. As a result drafts of the action plan have been formally reviewed by MSA members in consultation with their industry. Typically this has included consultation with stakeholders individually and collectively through discussions at MSA members' appropriate board or sub-group meetings.
- 1.4 In addition broader consultation is currently being undertaken:

- consultation events have been organised in each of the four nations to gain feedback on both the strategy and proposed action plan. These are taking place in February and March 2010;
- an online consultation is being conducted via the MSA website.

Summary of outcomes

1.5 The Action Plan will deliver activities under three themes:

- ensuring existing NOS and qualification frameworks continue to meet the needs of the sector. This will include:
 - reviewing existing NOS to ensure they still meet the needs of the sector and provide a sound basis for future qualification development and other uses.
 - reviewing existing qualifications frameworks to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the sector.
- developing new NOS and qualification frameworks that meet identified gaps in provision and new challenges to the sector. This will include:
 - exploring how recently developed NOS can be further used as the basis for accredited qualifications and frameworks as well as other uses for NOS.
 - developing the Maritime Studies Qualification suite, taking into account any changes to the NOS on which it is based;
 - development of a Foundation Degree framework for ports to ensure that new Foundation Degrees are consistent;
 - the development of Certificates of Competence for harbour masters and pilots;
 - working with the MCA to ensure that qualification structures are in place to support the proposed introduction of the competence requirement for operators of fishing vessels of less than 16.5 metres length and other regulatory requirements.
- activities to improve the take-up of qualifications and to ensure the quality of available qualifications.

- determining whether and how the Apprenticeship brand can be used when promoting traineeships to individuals. The industry is happy with the current SMarT structure and would not wish this to change, but there may be benefits for both the sector and the Government if they were marketed together;
- working with RYA to consider using the flexibilities of the credit and qualifications frameworks to accredit existing RYA courses, particularly those for instructors and Certificates of Competence;
- developing a framework to allow easier transferability of ratings between catering, deck and engineering routes.

Partner engagement and working arrangements

- 1.6 The structure of the MSA means that it will continue to have strong dialogue with stakeholders during the implementation and review of the action plan. The Maritime Sector Qualification Reform Project Group will oversee the development and implementation of the strategy and action plan, including the instigation of projects, and the creation of partnerships and agreements necessary to meet the strategy's objectives. The Maritime SGRP group has representatives from all MSA members and will produce quarterly report on progress for the MSA Board.
- 1.7 The MSA Board will review progress against the Qualification Strategy Action Plan quarterly, and will undertake an annual review of the Strategy and Action Plan alongside the MSA's other strategy and business planning activities.

Risks and assumptions

- 1.8 To be completed

Monitoring arrangements

- 1.9 The MSA Board will review progress against the Qualification Strategy Action Plan quarterly, and will undertake an annual review of the Strategy and Action Plan alongside the MSA's other strategy and business planning activities.

2. Part B

Maritime Qualifications Strategy: Action Plan, 2010-12

version 2:
January 2010

Ref	Action	Objective (<i>measurable</i>)	Coverage					Lead	MSA Role	Start Date	Finish Date
			UK	E	NI	S	W				
Strand 1 : Ensuring existing NOS and qualifications frameworks continue to meet the needs of the sector											
1.1	Amend NOS to reflect new STCW	All NOS updated for new STCW	✓					MSA	Lead		
1.2	Amend NOS to reflect new requirements related to workboats	All NOS updated for new workboat requirements	✓					MSA	Lead		
1.3	Amend Harbour master, marine pilot and VTS operations NOS to address changes in regulations, technology and the working environment	All NOS updated to meet new requirements	✓					PSS	Monitor		
1.4	Explore possibility of a cross-industry maritime apprenticeship	Decision made, and any action required set in hand	✓					MSA	Lead		
1.5	Review ports apprenticeships to meet new national requirements	All ports apprenticeships meet national requirements	✓					PSS	Monitor		
1.6	Review seafish apprenticeships to meet new national requirements	All seafish apprenticeships meet national requirements	✓					Seafish	Monitor		
1.7	Seek an extension to the validation of the marine vessel and engineering S/NVQs due to expire in 2010 whilst the MSQ is being developed	Extension granted	✓					MSA	Lead		
1.8	Ensure the ports-related NVQs due to expire in March 2010, and SVQs due to expire 2011, are replaced with MSQ units on the QCF / SCQF.	Replacements placed on QCF / SCQF	✓					PSS	Monitor		

Ref	Action	Objective (measurable)	Coverage					Lead	MSA Role	Start Date	Finish Date
			UK	E	NI	S	W				
Strand 2 : Developing new NOS and qualification frameworks that meet identified gaps in provision and new challenges to the sector											
2.1	Develop the Maritime Studies Qualification suite, taking into account changes to the NOS on which it is based	Updated suite published	✓					MSA	Lead		
2.2	Explore how recently developed NOS can be further used as the basis for accredited qualifications and frameworks as well as other uses for NOS, especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shore-based management of ships - Maritime hospitality - Marine - Non-pleasure craft operating in inland coastal waters - Superyachts - Apprenticeships for tugs 	Advice to employers published [?]	✓					MSA	Lead		
2.3	Develop a Foundation Degree framework for ports to ensure that new Foundation Degrees are consistent	Framework published	✓					PSS	Monitor		
2.4	Develop Certificates of Competence for harbour masters and pilots	Certificates published	✓					PSS	Monitor		
2.5	Put qualification structures in place for the forthcoming competence requirements for operators of fishing vessels of less than 16.5m	Qualification structures published	✓					Seafish	Monitor		
2.6	Development of short courses as QCF units	Units accepted on to QCF / SCQF	✓					MSA	Lead		
Strand 3: Activities to improve the take-up of qualifications and to ensure the quality of available qualifications											
3.1	Determine whether and how the Apprenticeship brand can be used when promoting officer traineeships	Decision reached and appropriate action plan agreed	✓					MNTB	Monitor		
3.2	Explore using the flexibilities of the credit and qualifications frameworks to accredit some RYA courses, particularly for instructors, and Certificates of Competence	Decision reached and appropriate action plan agreed	✓					RYA + BMF	Monitor		

Ref	Action	Objective (<i>measurable</i>)	Coverage					Lead	MSA Role	Start Date	Finish Date
			UK	E	NI	S	W				
3.3	Develop a framework to allow ratings to transfer more easily between catering, deck and engineering routes	Framework published	✓					MNTB	Monitor		
3.4	Support MCA initiative 'Smoothing the Path', to remove barriers to cross-industry flexibility	Agreement that key barriers have been removed	✓					MSA	Lead		
Strand 4: Future Reviews											
4.1	Review this plan	Updated plan agreed	✓					MSA	Lead	1.2011	

NB "published" means "made available to employers for them to use"