

Congratulations on results day for first cohort of seafarers taking digital assessments

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The first seafarers to take new digital assessments that are being rolled out by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) have been congratulated as they opened their results this week.

Around 170 candidates were assessed in April 2026 through the secure web-based platform which is replacing traditional written exams with flexible, digital assessments.

The groundbreaking assessments, which apply to Officer of the Watch (Unlimited) and Chief Mate (Unlimited) Certificates of Competency, mark a significant milestone in the modernisation of UK seafarer certification.

Shajan Lukose, MCA Head of Nautical Examiners, said:

On behalf of everyone at the MCA, I'd like to congratulate the candidates who have broken new ground by completing their Certificate of Competency assessments on the digital assessment platform.

The system is not only simpler and more accessible for candidates and examiners, but also better reflects the new syllabus to ensure the next generation of seafarers are equipped with the skills for the modern maritime world.

Consistent, fair and up-to-date learning and assessments ensure we have knowledgeable and well-trained seafarers able to forge successful careers and drive the UK's maritime industry forward.

The new assessment system links closely to the modernised seafarer training syllabus, reflecting the realities of modern seafaring and bridge operations.

The platform is being rolled out across MCA-approved examination centres worldwide and is expected to support more than 5,000 candidates each year across a range of maritime qualifications when it is fully implemented.

Candidates demonstrate knowledge and decision-making through a variety of digital processes, including scenario-based responses, image and chart annotation, structured written answers, and automated elements where appropriate.

Competence is assessed in areas such as ship stability, passage planning, collision avoidance, and modern navigation systems – safety-critical skills routinely used on board today's vessels.

Background

Provision of the digital assessment platform was put to tender in 2025 and awarded to the International Association of Maritime Institutions (IAMI), a global network of maritime training providers.

The change is part of the Cadet Training and Modernisation (CT&M) Programme, led by the MCA with the involvement of employers, seafarers, education providers, seafarer unions, and industry leaders.

The CT&M Programme is based on recommendations made by the Seafarer and Cadet Training Review, launched by the Maritime Skills Commission on the instruction of the Maritime Minister in 2021.

It brings together key stakeholders, including employers, the UK Chamber of Shipping, Merchant Navy Training Board, seafarer unions, educators and more, focused on improving seafarer training.

It is believed to be the first time a maritime regulator like the MCA has joined forces with industry experts to shape such training in this way.

The MCA does not deliver training but is responsible for overseeing that standards are maintained by providers through seafarer assessments and regular audits of the training providers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/congratulations-on-results-day-for-first-cohort-of-seafarers-taking-digital-assessments>