



# INFORMATION SHEET

2/2021

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## CHANGES TO MSAF CERTIFICATION PROCESS

After several consultations and meetings with the Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) management, together with MSAF we have identified the several areas where improvements are required in administration and conducting of some training courses, therefore we have agreed to the changes noted below. These issues were also raised through industry consultations as to the need or value of some of these processes.

1. Police check will no longer be a requirement for new entrants into the industry. It has recently been noted that it is not a requirement for renewal of certificates. Therefore, it will also not be a requirement for new entrants. Potential employers may require a police check for employees, as such it is an issue between employers and employees.
2. A medical check is now a requirement for all new entrants **prior** to any training undertaken at the FMA. Currently it occurs after training has been completed. This allows candidates to be certain of their future in the industry, simply put, if candidate cannot pass medical check than the cost of training by them is not wasted. MSAF is revising Medicals to have one for STCW Level courses and one for Lower Grade local certificates e.g. Boat Master License with assistant of the Fiji College General Practitioners.
3. The MSAF certificate relating to the STCW basic training will now be issued by the FMA who already provide a certificate and not MSAF. This course is not a certificate of competency as its basic training. This will be effective immediately. This ensures that there is no duplication of the Basic Safety Certificates process between the two organisations and additional bureaucracy and cost that is impeding Maritime industry.
4. FMA will be providing BML/RME 6 trainings nationwide as an entry level course. The Authority will begin to move to the certification of these courses and not as trainer. Successful applicants need to know that full course attendance is required, only then will a certificate be issued.
5. The Academy has been informed of the demand for BML/RME 6 training in the Western Division and the facilities available in the west as venue for trainings. Interested

participants can contact FMA's department administrator Taslim Mohamed on 3315115/3315494 ext 5773 or on email: [Taslim Mohammed taslim.mohammed@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:TaslimMohammed@fnu.ac.fj)

6. For seafarers who have completed the necessary sea time for various certificates of Competency, requesting to enrol in FMA, sea time will be assessed by MSAF and the assessment form shall suffice as evidence for eligibility for enrolment purposes. This sea time assessment shall be produced for application for Orals once FMA course is completed.
7. The Academy has also been approached to offer additional Maritime Courses to be included in their programs covering the following: - as they are needed not only locally but regionally as well
  - International Safety Management Code,
  - Enclosed Space Entry course,
  - Accredited Marine Surveying course

**SIMON GRAVENALL**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji

16<sup>th</sup> February 2021