



MSA Maritime Studies Qualification (MSQ) Units for the Boatmaster/Domestic Vessel Sector – Vessels Operating in UK Categorised Waters (A to D) and Limited Distances to Sea

The Maritime Studies Suite comprises over 100 units from which selected combinations form Maritime Studies Qualifications as Diplomas, Certificates and Awards (depending on their size) and at different levels (appropriate to the job roles which they support). These are nationally recognised qualifications, attracting Government funding, and quality controlled and awarded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority, which has a long history with maritime qualifications at every level.

This note summarises the current position for the Boatmaster and Domestic Vessel sector.

MSQs meet the requirements of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in whole or in part, for various Certificates of Competency, licences, and short courses; they complement existing pathways, but do not replace them.

The MSA has worked with the MCA to create an interlocking suite of units and qualifications which both support training in different parts of the maritime sector - for Boatmaster licences (BML) and Domestic Vessel crew, workboats, tugs, fishing vessels, the Merchant Navy (STCW), and others – and movement between the different sectors.

The full list of MSQs and units, and the growing list of apprenticeships which incorporate them, are on the MSA website. If a unit appears in more than one qualification it is transferable between qualifications and does not have to be repeated.

The MSQs, units and associated apprenticeships are offered by a number of colleges and other training providers throughout the UK. The MSA and its members are keen to see new providers in this sector so that BML-related MSQs are more widely available across the UK.

MSA Ref.	QCF Ref.	Title	Level	Credits
Bridging Unit(s) for Progression from BML Tier 1 Level 2 to STCW Reg. II/3 <500gt Near Coastal CoC				
-	-	<i>Under Consideration</i>		
17 BML Tier 1 Level 2 Generic Underpinning Knowledge Units (which form the Diploma in Maritime Studies: Rivers, Inland Waterways and Limited Distance to Sea, QCF ref: 601/0021/7)				
1	Y/501/2738	Maritime Employment, Environmental and Health and Safety Practice	2	2
2	D/501/2739	Maritime Sector Overview	2	3
3	K/602/3897	Vessel Ropework, Anchoring and Mooring Operations	2	5
4	H/602/3901	Securing a Vessel for Passage	2	3
5	T/602/3904	Vessel Construction and Stability	2	5
7	H/602/3882	Basic Vessel Engineering Systems	2	3
8	R/602/3893	Maintaining Vessel Machinery for Safe Operation	2	3
9	D/602/3895	Vessel Repair and Maintenance	2	5
10	J/602/3907	Assist with a Vessel's Navigational Watch	2	3
11	F/602/4019	Vessel Navigation and Tides	3	6

13	Y/602/3071	Survival in the Water during Maritime Emergencies	2	1
14	T/502/5920	Vessel Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (STCW) (or Unit 17)	2	2
15	K/602/3866	Maritime Security	2	1
16	A/602/3872	Emergency First Aid in Response to Maritime Accidents or Medical Emergency	2	1
17	D/602/3878	Maritime Fire Prevention and Fire Actions (or Unit 14)	2	1
20	J/602/4023	Communicate using Equipment and Visual Means	2	2
21	M/602/4436	Maintain your Work Practice	2	2
Bridging Unit(s) for Progression from BML Tier 1 Level 1 to Tier 1 Level 2 Generic Underpinning Knowledge				
-	-	<i>In Preparation</i>		
7 BML Tier 1 Level 1 Generic Underpinning Knowledge Units. These will form a new MSQ Certificate.				
105	L/505/9331	Emergency Response on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	2	2
106	R/505/9332	Engineering Operations on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	2	3
107	Y/505/9333	Health and Safety, including Prevention of Pollution, on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	2	2
108	D/505/9334	Navigation and Bridge Watchkeeping on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	2	3
109	H/505/9335	Seamanship Operations on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	2	2
110	M/505/9337	Ship Knowledge on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	2	2
111	T/505/9338	Vessel Manoeuvring and Handling on Domestic Vessels in Non-Tidal Waters	2	2
7 BML Specialist Endorsement Units (which will become optional units in the Diploma in Maritime Studies: Rivers, Inland Waterways and Limited Distances to Sea, QCF ref: 601/0021/7, and the planned new MSQ Certificate above)				
98	J/505/9327	Control Dry Cargo Operations on Domestic Vessels	3	4
99	F/505/9326	Control Large Domestic Passenger Vessel Operations	3	3
100	L/505/9328	Control Oil and Chemical Cargo Operations on Domestic Vessels	3	4
101	R/505/9329	Control Passenger Operations on Domestic Vessels	3	2
102*	-	<i>Control Dredging Operations on Domestic Vessels</i>	3	TBC
103*	-	<i>Control Towing and Pushing Operations on Domestic Vessels</i>	3	TBC
104	J/505/9330	Use of Radar for Safe Navigation and Collision Avoidance on Domestic and Code Vessels	3	2
1 BML Ancillary Safety Unit (covers BML ancillary safety training). This will become a new MSQ Award.				
112	A/505/9339	Use of Safety Equipment on Domestic Vessels	2	3
2 Competent Crew Units (covers crew training for both passenger and other domestic vessels). These will form a new MSQ Award.				
113	M/505/9340	Contribute to Routine Crew Operations on Domestic Vessels	2	4
114	T/505/9341	Contribute to Emergency Response on Domestic Vessels	2	2

*Units 102 and 103 are in draft awaiting confirmation of industry requirements and MCA syllabuses

If you have any questions, spot any errors, want to suggest further units which the MSA might create, know of any providers in your area which you would like to see offering these qualifications, or would like further information, please contact the Secretary, Iain Mackinnon, at iain@maritimeskills.org, or 0208 99 88 77 2.