



---

---

## **Maritime Labour Convention, 2006: Food and Catering: Recognised Qualifications in Food Hygiene or Food Safety in Catering for Ship's Cooks and Others Processing Food in the Galley**

**Notice to all Shipowners, Masters, Crew Agents, Officers, Seafarers and other ship board personnel**

*This note should be read with Part 8 of the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention)(Minimum Requirements for Seafarers etc.) Regulations 2014 and Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1846 (M) Maritime Labour Convention 2006, Food and Catering: Ship's Cooks and Catering Staff.*

*This MIN replaces MIN 605(M) and expires 30th November 2021*

---

---

### **Summary**

Part 8 of the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Minimum Requirements for Seafarers etc.) Regulations 2014 (the "Minimum Requirements Regulations") introduce a requirement for all ship's cooks, catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley to be suitably qualified in food hygiene or food safety in catering.

The qualifications and awarding bodies which are listed in the Marine Information Note are those that fulfil the learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in Annex 1 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1846 (M). Level 2 is the minimum acceptable level for ship's cooks, catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley.

This notice is guidance of the current courses available at the date of issue of this notice and applies to pre-qualification for issue of a Ship's Cook certificate of competency.

The same learning outcomes (Annex 1 of MSN 1846(M)) apply for stewards, temporary support staff or other persons processing food in the galley, but these personnel are not required to hold the qualifications listed, as it is expected that they would be working under qualified supervision.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Under the Minimum Requirements Regulations all ship's cooks are to be suitably qualified in food hygiene or food safety in catering. All catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley must be properly trained or instructed in food hygiene or food safety.

### **2. Training requirements for catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley (Regulation 40)**



- 2.1 The shipowner must ensure that the ship's cook and any other person who processes food in the galley of a sea-going United Kingdom vessel is properly trained or instructed in food and personal hygiene, as well as safe handling and storage of food onboard ship, in accordance with the learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in Annex 1 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1846 (M). A ship's cook must hold a qualification attesting these learning outcomes and must also complete the additional learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in Annex 2 and the Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping Safety Courses listed in section 3 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1846 (M).

### 3. Recognised Food Hygiene/Food Safety Qualifications

- 3.1 The following is a list of those qualifications and awarding bodies which the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) currently recognises and accepts as fulfilling the requirements of the learning outcomes and assessment criteria as set out in Annex 1 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1846 (M). All these qualifications are classroom based and are followed by an examination. Level 2 is the minimum acceptable level for ship's cooks, catering staff and other persons processing food in the galley.

#### (I) Table 1: Level 2 Courses

Qualification Number (where applicable)	Qualification Title	Owner Organisation Name	Owner Organisation (short name)	Qualification Level
600/3287/X	Pearson BTEC Award in Food Safety in Catering	Pearson Education Ltd	Pearson	Level 2
-	Elementary Food Hygiene	Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland	REHIS	Level 2
600/1306/0	FAQ Award in Food Safety in Catering	Future Awards and Qualifications	FAQ	Level 2
501/1302/1	BIIAB Award in Food Safety in Catering	BIIAB	BIIAB	Level 2
-	CIEH Foundation Certificate in Food Safety	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	Level 2
500/5186/6	City & Guilds Award in Food Safety in Catering	City and Guilds of London Institute	City & Guilds	Level 2
600/4678/8	VTCT Award in Food Safety in Catering	VTCT	VTCT	Level 2
603/6455/5	VTCT Award in Food Safety in Catering	VTCT	VTCT	Level 2
600/0343/1	Ascentis Award in Food Safety in Catering	Ascentis	Ascentis	Level 2
603/2395/4	RSPH Award in Food Safety and Hygiene	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	Level 2
603/3341/8	Skillsfirst Award in Food Hygiene	Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	Skillsfirst	Level 2
603/6062/8	CTH Award in Food Safety and Hygiene	The Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality	CTH	Level 2
600/4334/9	TLM Award in Food Safety in Catering	The Learning Machine	TLM	Level 2
601/1157/4	NOCN Award in Food Safety in Catering	NOCN	NOCN	Level 2



600/9385/7	FAA Award In Food Safety in Catering	FAA	FAA	Level 2
603/5849/X	Qualifi Award in Food Hygiene, Safety and Professional Workplace Effectiveness	Qualifi Ltd	QUALIFI	Level 2
603/0816/3	QNUK Award in Food Safety for Catering (RQF)	Qualifications Network	QNUK	Level 2
603/5373/9	QNUK Award in Food Safety for Catering (Refresher) (RQF)	Qualifications Network	QNUK	Level 2
500/8419/7	FDQ Award in Food Safety for Catering	FDQ Ltd	FDQ	Level 2
603/4937/2	Highfield Award in Food Safety for Catering (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 2
603/2043/6	Highfield Award in Food Safety in Catering (Refresher) (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 2
603/0967/2	Highfield Award in Food Safety at Sea (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 2
603/1290/7	Open Awards Award in Food Safety in Catering	Open Awards	Open Awards	Level 2
603/4311/4	QA Award in Food Safety (Refresher) (RQF)	Qualsafe Awards	QA	Level 2
603/2594/X	QA Award in Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Qualsafe Awards	QA	Level 2
600/8219/7	AIM Qualifications Award in Food Safety in Catering	AIM Qualifications	AIM	Level 2
601/7794/9	iCQ Award In Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	iCan Qualifications Limited	iCQ	Level 2
601/7793/7	iCQ Level 2 Award in Maintaining Food Safety when Storing, Preparing and Cooking Food (RQF)	iCan Qualifications	iCQ	Level 2
603/3328/5	ProQual Award in Food Safety Awareness	ProQual Awarding Body	ProQual	Level 2
601/8269/6	GA Award in Food Safety for Catering (RQF)	Gatehouse Awards	GA	Level 2
600/2214/0	SFJ Awards Award In Food Safety in Catering	SFJ Awards	SFJ Awards	Level 2
601/2512/3	TQUK Award in Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Training Qualifications UK Ltd	TQUK	Level 2

**(II) Table 2: Level 3 Courses**

<b>Qualification Number (where applicable)</b>	<b>Qualification Title</b>	<b>Owner Organisation Name</b>	<b>Owner Organisation (short name)</b>	<b>Qualification Level</b>
600/1367/9	FAQ Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Future Awards and Qualifications	FAQ	Level 3
-	CIEH Intermediate Certificate in Food Safety	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	Level 3
-	Intermediate Food Hygiene	Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland	REHIS	Level 3



600/5224/7	BIIAB Award In Supervising Food Safety in Catering	BIIAB	BIIAB	Level 3
603/2396/6	RSPH Award in Supervising Food Safety and Hygiene	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	Level 3
601/2681/4	FAA Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	First Aid Awards Ltd	FAA	Level 3
603/1022/4	QNUK Award in Food Safety Supervision for Catering (RQF)	Qualifications Network	QNUK	Level 3
600/4327/1	FDQ Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	FDQ Ltd	FDQ	Level 3
603/4942/6	Highfield Award in Food Safety for Catering (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 3
603/0968/4	Highfield Award in Supervising Food Safety at Sea (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 3
603/0880/1	QA Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Qualsafe Awards	QA	Level 3
601/2990/6	TQUK Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Training Qualifications UK Ltd	TQUK	Level 3
603/2706/6	SafeCert Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	SafeCert Awards	SafeCert	Level 3

**(III) Table 3: Level 4 Courses**

<b>Qualification Number (where applicable)</b>	<b>Qualification Title</b>	<b>Owner Organisation Name</b>	<b>Owner Organisation (short name)</b>	<b>Qualification Level</b>
600/1368/0	FAQ Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Future Awards and Qualifications	FAQ	Level 4
603/2407/7	RSPH Award in Managing Food Safety and Hygiene	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	Level 4
-	Diploma in Advanced Food Hygiene	Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland	REHIS	Level 4
500/7327/8	Highfield Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	Level 4

3.2 We do not recognise on-line food safety / hygiene courses as meeting the assessment criteria and learning outcomes set out in Annex 1 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1846 (M) for the Ship's Cook certificate of competency.

**4. Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)**

4.1 The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) have not been a regulated awarding organisation since withdrawing from the regulatory structure used by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales (QiW), and Council for the Curriculum, Examination, and Assessment (CCEA) in 2016.

4.2 CIEH regulate, approve, accredit and monitor their own food safety/ hygiene courses at Levels 2 and 3, under the provisions of the CIEH Charter. These are listed within the tables given in section 3.



- 4.3 The table below lists the qualifications for the CIEH courses that are no longer available and were discontinued on the certification end date shown in the last column of the table below. The MCA will continue to accept these certificates issued before the certification end date shown below.

Qualification Number	CIEH Qualification Title	Level	Certification End Date
600/0473/3	Award in Practical Food Safety for Catering	2	31 March 2017
500/5476/4	Award in Food Safety in Catering	2	23 June 2017
500/5475/2	Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	3	23 June 2017
500/5470/3	Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	4	21 July 2017

## 5. Discontinued qualifications

- 5.1 The following is a list of qualifications that are no longer available. The MCA has previously recognised and accepted these certificates as fulfilling the learning outcomes and assessment criteria set out in Annex 1 of Merchant Shipping MSN 1846 (M). Applicants holding one of the certificates listed below can use it when applying for their Ship's Cook Certificate of Competency, provided it is issued before the certificate end date.

Qualification Number (where applicable)	Qualification Title	Owner Organisation Name	Owner Organisation (short name)	Certificate End Date
601/1327/3	ABC Level 2 Award In Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	ABC Awards	ABC	31 March 2015
500/6524/5	ASCENTIS Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Ascentis	Ascentis	28 February 2015
500/6530/0	ASCENTIS Level 3 Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Ascentis	Ascentis	28 February 2015
100/6227/0	OCNW Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering	Ascentis	Ascentis	30 September 2011
100/6228/2	OCNW Level 3 Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering	Ascentis	Ascentis	30 September 2012
500/5470/3	CIEH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	21 July 2017
500/5475/2	CIEH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	23 June 2017
500/5476/4	CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	23 June 2017
500/1506/0	CIEH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	30 November 2011
100/6075/3	CIEH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	30 November 2011
600/0473/3	CIEH Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety for Catering (QCF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	CIEH	31 March 2017
500/5910/5	City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	City and Guilds of London Institute	City & Guilds	31 December 2017



100/6200/2	City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Food Safety for Catering	City and Guilds of London Institute	City & Guilds	31 March 2013
100/6201/4	City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety for Catering	City and Guilds of London Institute	City & Guilds	31 March 2014
600/4326/X	FDQ Level 3 Award In Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	FDQ Limited	FDQ	30 September 2015
601/1058/2	Gateway Qualifications Level 2 Award In Food Safety in Catering	Gateway Qualifications Limited	Gateway Qualifications	31 December 2017
500/8461/6	McDonalds Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	McDonalds	McDonalds	30 April 2017
500/6195/1	NCFE Level 3 Award in Practical Food Safety Supervision for Catering (QCF)	NCFE	NCFE	30 June 2016
500/6210/4	NCFE Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety for Catering (QCF)	NCFE	NCFE	31 December 2015
100/6220/8	NCFE Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering	NCFE	NCFE	31 August 2011
100/6221/X	NCFE Level 3 Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering	NCFE	NCFE	31 August 2012
500/6260/8	Pearson EDI Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	30 September 2016
500/6261/X	Pearson EDI Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	30 September 2016
500/6266/9	Pearson EDI Level 3 Award in Practical Food Safety Supervision for Catering (QCF)	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	31 December 2016
100/5858/8	EDI Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	31 August 2011
100/5859/X	EDI Level 3 Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	30 November 2011
500/1684/2	EDI Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	Pearson EDI	Pearson EDI	30 June 2011
600/3290/X	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Pearson Education Ltd	Pearson	30 June 2017
600/3291/1	Pearson BTEC Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Pearson Education Ltd	Pearson	30 June 2017
601/1145/8	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Practical Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Pearson Education Ltd	Pearson	31 March 2016
600/5460/8	Qualifi Level 2 Award in Food Safety for Food Handlers (VRQ)	Qualifi Ltd	QUALIFI	31 July 2015
600/3918/8	QNUK Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Qualifications Network	QNUK	31 December 2016
600/8920/9	QA Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Qualsafe Awards	QA	05 March 2018
500/1924/7	RIPH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Royal Institute of Public Health	RIPH	30 November 2011
100/1584/X	RIPH Advanced Certificate in Food Safety	Royal Institute of Public Health	RIPH	31 December 2009





500/1637/4	RIPH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Royal Institute of Public Health	RIPH	30 November 2011
500/3768/7	RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 December 2010
500/5480/6	RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 May 2018
500/5483/1	RSPH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 May 2018
500/5484/3	RSPH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 July 2018
100/5848/5	RSPH Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 December 2011
100/5823/0	RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	30 November 2010
100/5824/2	RSPH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	30 November 2011
601/8306/8	RSPH Level 2 Foundation Award in Food Hygiene	Royal Society for Public Health	RSPH	31 July 2018
601/4956/5	AoFAQ Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Awarding Organisation for Accredited Qualifications	AOFAQ	31 December 2018
601/3364/8	TQUK Level 4 Award in Food Safety Management for Catering (RQF)	Training Qualifications UK Ltd	TQUK	28 February 2019
603/2033/3	Highfield Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (RQF)	Highfield Qualifications	Highfield Qualifications	31 December 2019
601/3746/0	BSC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering	British Safety Council	BSC	30 April 2020
601/3777/0	BSC Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering	British Safety Council	BSC	30 April 2020

### More Information

Seafarer Services  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/17  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Tel: +44 (0) 203 8172250  
e-mail: [seafarersafety@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:seafarersafety@mcga.gov.uk)

Website Address: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency)

General Enquiries: [infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)

Published: November 2020  
Please note that all addresses and telephone numbers are correct at time of publishing

© Crown Copyright 2020

***Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas***

