



MNTB Good Practice Guidelines, Course Recognition Process and Criteria

Introduction

The Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB) will award recognition of maritime training courses that, in its judgement, meet criteria that have been established by its Board

This document sets out the MNTB criteria and process for course recognition. The criteria reflect good practice in training course provision and require courses to demonstrate that they meet an identified need, have been effectively constructed and demonstrate exemplary standards in delivery, management and quality assurance. These criteria must be met to the satisfaction of MNTB before recognition can be granted.

Companies providing training within the shipping industry may apply for MNTB recognition of their courses. The benefits of MNTB recognition to companies will be an increased profile and standing within the industry, an independent endorsement of its expertise, type and range of training provision, and acknowledgement that a course has met the good practice criteria set by the MNTB. It will also highlight a course as delivering effective training to meet a specified company/industry need.

Recognition will be evidenced through permission to use the 'MNTB recognised course' logo on company literature and webpages and inclusion on the MNTB website of recognised training courses.

MNTB recognition is not associated with, nor does it impact on, existing international and national quality assurance systems and processes – such as those identified by ISO, classification societies, insurance bodies, education and recognised industry bodies.

MNTB good practice guidelines

Training courses that receive MNTB recognition have demonstrated that the specified training course and training company/organisation meet its good practice guidelines, as set out below and as determined by the MNTB.

1. The specified training course:

- 1.1 meets a defined industry or company need;
- 1.2 specifies the aims, objectives and learning outcomes to be achieved and delivers them successfully;
- 1.3 defines any entry requirements for course participants;
- 1.4 provides a suitably structured programme of learning, using a range of learning styles, appropriate learning materials and appropriate equipment;
- 1.5 is delivered using appropriate delivery methods and within appropriate timescales, having cognisance of suitable training day timescales – i.e a training day must not be in excess of ten hours, including relevant breaks, and must not include more than eight contact hours;
- 1.6 is appropriately linked and/or mapped to at least one of the following:
 - international/national standards as defined by a creditable body (e.g. ISO);

- identifiable industry standards;
 - national occupational standards;
 - defined training frameworks;
 - industry course criteria (e.g. IMO Model courses, MNTB short course criteria);
- 1.7 where relevant, provides appropriate assessment processes, tools and moderation;
- 1.8 is delivered by competent trainers with defined industry and training expertise and assessed by competent assessors with likewise expertise where relevant.

2. The training company/organisation has:

- 2.1 a sound financial basis on which it can offer the course and ensure its completion for those attending;
- 2.2 relevant professional/industry body membership and/or national accreditation/auditing undertaken by a responsible body – e.g. ISO, a P&I association, a Classification Society, a flag state administration, EU recognition (through EMSA), or a government inspection body;
- 2.3 sufficient and appropriate human, physical, equipment and material resources, to the standards expected by the MNTB, to provide the training course(s) for which it is seeking MNTB recognition;
- 2.4 a recognised quality management system/quality standard covering training course provision where not covered by 2.2, above;
- 2.5 appropriate processes to ensure that those enrolling on its training courses meet stated entry requirements;
- 2.6 where relevant, suitable processes that provide appropriate, recognised and valid certification for successful course participants within its identified area of expertise;
- 2.7 appropriate publication/information about its training courses, including, as a minimum, their availability (venue, dates, timings as relevant), length of course, content, structure, trainers/lecturers, assessment, certification and course costs;
- 2.8 a suitable system to maintain relevant records of courses delivered, attendees and assessment outcomes;
- 2.9 a defined complaints process which is provided to all course participants prior to course attendance;
- 2.10 monitoring and reviewing processes in place to ensure the training course is up-to-date and continues to meet industry/company needs, along with self-evaluation of its provision and processes to ensure continuous improvement can be and is undertaken;
- 2.11 processes in place to inform the MNTB of relevant changes to any of the above points.

MNTB course recognition – submission process and costs

Request for course recognition will be made to the MNTB, using the submission form provided. Each submission must be made electronically, providing all supporting documentation as identified within the criteria. Once the submission has been received by the MNTB, an invoice for the non-refundable registration fee of £250 (plus VAT as applicable) will be sent. NB – this fee will be waived for UK Chamber of Shipping member companies.

Registration will enable the submission to be logged and an initial evaluation made as to the validity and suitability of the provision for progression to full evaluation. At this stage the submission may be rejected where it is evident that suitable information has not been provided for it to progress to full evaluation, in which case a report detailing why it has been rejected will be provided. NB – this will be where it is clear that various criteria have not been met or would not stand up to relevant scrutiny, rather than a minor issue such as missing/incomplete evidence and/or documentation.

Where a submission is recognised as suitable to continue to full evaluation, the applicant will be notified and invoiced for the evaluation fee plus travel and subsistence costs for the site/course visit, which is a required part of the evaluation process. Full evaluation for recognition will only proceed on receipt of the invoiced fees. The site visit and recognition can only be granted following payment of all fees.

It is understood that courses developed to meet a specific industry need may be adapted to provide bespoke solutions for individual companies. It is also possible for a submission to be made for multiple different courses, where certain organisational information and processes would be the same, i.e. with regard to Criteria 7, 11, 14, 15 and 16. In either of these instances where such submissions are to be made, the company should contact the MNTB beforehand to confirm the process, proforma details and costs. Companies wishing to have more than five courses recognised may wish to consider centre recognition, which may be of greater value and suitability in both commercial and cost benefit.

Costs

- 1. Registration fee - £250 (plus VAT as applicable)** (no charge to UK Chamber of Shipping members)
- 2. Recognition service evaluation - £2,000 (plus VAT as applicable), plus agreed costs for site visit**
- 3. On-going fee of £10.00 per participant per course (online and classroom-based)**
- 4. Course re-recognition (every 3 years) - £1,500 (plus VAT as applicable)**

Second and subsequent courses are charged as above with a 20% discount (plus VAT as applicable), plus agreed costs for site visit; as above for on-going fee.

Other Costs Payable

- 1. The Training Company is asked to cover the following costs for one MNTB approved assessor when carrying out site visits and interim reviews (if applicable):**

- i) Business travel for flights over 5.5 hours.
- ii) Hotel accommodation and subsistence.
- iii) Travel to and from the airport.

Course recognition decision

The MNTB will make its decision as follows:

- i) **Full recognition** and agreement to use the MNTB name and logo on the relevant course/related publicity materials for a period of no more than 3 years;
- ii) **Conditional recognition**, whereby confirmation of some issue/clarification/further information is required. Full recognition will be dependent on a satisfactory response;
- iii) **Refusal of recognition**, where the MNTB believes that specific criteria are not met. The submitting provider will be given details of the perceived shortcomings. Such a course may be resubmitted at a later date where new evidence to support the criteria is provided. This will take the form of a new submission, along with the above associated costs.

Ongoing recognition

During the period of recognition the company is required to inform the MNTB of all minor and major changes/amendments to the course that would affect any of the recognition criteria, as identified in Criterion 16 of the application form. Where the changes/amendments meet specified criteria in their own right then this will not affect recognition. However, should the changes/amendments mean that any criterion would not be met then a suitable course of action will be identified in order to retain recognition. Where this is not agreed and/or actioned, recognition will be withdrawn, the course will be removed from the MNTB website list, and the MNTB name and logo must be removed from all course information/materials etc.

An interim review will be undertaken after 18 months, which will require information about and confirmation of any changes that have been implemented during the period of recognition.

MNTB course recognition is not connected in any way with international or national regulatory certification and cannot be used to claim certification of any type from any organisation/body.

All documentation and materials will be completely confidential to the MNTB and its appointed evaluators.

MNTB course recognition criteria

Criterion 1 – Meeting industry/employer needs

This criterion requires evidence of industry and/or company need for the training course.

Criterion 2 – Training course aims, objectives and learning outcomes

This criterion requires details of the aims, objectives and learning outcomes for the course.

Criterion 3 – Training course entry requirements

This criterion requires evidence of the academic/ occupational/other entry requirements for course participants and your processes for ensuring participants meet them. NB – some courses will not have entry requirements, which is perfectly acceptable depending on the type and nature of the course.

Criterion 4 – Training course structure and timescales

This criterion requires detail of the structure of the course, including the timescales over which it is planned, a breakdown of session timings, and the ratio of trainers to participants.

Criterion 5 – Training course delivery methods and learning styles

This criterion requires detail of the course delivery methods and learning styles that your course is designed to cater for.

Criterion 6 – Internationally/nationally recognised standards, frameworks, criteria

This criterion requires evidence of the internationally/nationally recognised industry or occupational standards, training frameworks and/or course criteria that your course links to.

Criterion 7 – Professional/industry body membership/accreditation

This criterion requires evidence of any professional/industry body membership/accreditation that the company/organisation has and any relevant detail of how it relates to the training course.

Criterion 8 – Assessment processes and tools

This criterion requires detail of the processes used to assess achievement of the course, where specific standards need to be achieved. It must include copies of the assessment tools that will be utilised and their appropriateness for the purpose.

Criterion 9 – Management and administration of the course and course resource requirements

This criterion requires detail of how the course will be managed, administered, and those involved, along with the resources that will be used to deliver the training course. It must include physical and equipment resources and copies of all material resources used in the course.

Criterion 10 – Trainer and assessor competence

This criterion requires detail of the trainers that will deliver the training course and any assessors involved in assessment. Evidence is required of their qualifications, industry and training/assessor expertise. Include copies of qualification certificates and references covering specific expertise, as utilised in the course, where identified in academic/ consultant/ trainer/ assessor profiles. NB – it is required that trainers will have teacher/lecturer/train the trainer/coaching expertise.

Criterion 11 – Quality assurance

This criterion requires evidence of the recognised, or suitable equivalent internal, quality assurance system(s) in place within the company/organisation that relate to this training course. Include detail of course monitoring and reviewing, self-evaluation and continuous

professional development processes that are in place to ensure the training course is current, up-to-date and continues to meet industry/company needs.

Criterion 12 – Certification

This criterion requires detail of any certification and its validity that will be provided to those achieving the course outcomes.

Criterion 13 – Training course publicity/information provision

This criterion requires details and examples of any publicity/information available about the training course.

Criterion 14 – Records

This criterion requires evidence of the course record-keeping processes, including details of secure storage and how you are meeting data protection requirements, along with the type of information recorded, its purpose and any links to your quality procedures.

Criterion 15 – Complaints process

This criterion requires detail of the complaints process and how this is communicated to course participants.

Criterion 16 – Course revisions/changes

This criterion requires detail of the process to inform the MNTB of major course revisions and minor changes to any of the above criteria.

To make a submission, please use the MNTB Course Recognition Submission Form, which provides full information on the above criterion and the evidence that will be required to meet each criterion.

MNTB online course recognition criteria

The following recognition criteria have been defined based on the MNTB Good Practice Guidelines.

For each of the criteria, please provide your written explanation/detail. In providing supporting information with your application, this should be referenced to the relevant recognition criterion, with precise details of the documentation and page number(s) to which it refers. It is not the case that all criteria or all aspects of a criterion must be met, as some may not be relevant to a specific course. Where a criterion or any aspect of a criterion is not applicable however, this should be stated, with an explanation of why this is the case.

MNTB course recognition is not connected in any way with international or national regulatory certification and cannot be used to claim certification of any type from any organisation/body.

All documentation and materials will be completely confidential to the MNTB and its appointed reviewers.

Criterion 1 – Meeting industry/employer needs

This criterion requires evidence of industry and/or company need for the training course, for example this need could be related to regulatory/industry factors or requirements for alternative delivery methods. This could include:

- industry research;
- survey results;
- informal identification with industry personnel/organisations.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that evidence-based information and detail will be provided, identifying the need for the training and, where relevant, the anticipated size of the market/target audience. Please indicate where you estimate increased demand through on-line delivery rather than formal classes.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 2 – Training course aims, objectives and learning outcomes

This criterion requires details of the aims, objectives and learning outcomes for the course (in whatever way you have chosen to define them) and how they support the identified need in Criterion 1.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that a written statement of your course aims, objectives and learning outcomes will be provided, along with evidence-based detail as indicated by published/printed course materials, on the company website etc. You must also identify whether your course supports the development of:

- i) skills – and/or
- ii) knowledge – and/or
- iii) attitudes

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 3 – Training course entry requirements

This criterion requires evidence of the academic / occupational / other entry requirements for course participants and your processes for ensuring participants meet them. NB – some courses will not have entry requirements, which is perfectly acceptable depending on the type and nature of the course.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that detail of the following entry requirements are provided, where relevant:

- i) academic;
- ii) occupational;
- iii) physical;
- iv) other

Where there are no entry requirements, you should confirm that this is appropriate to the course aims and objectives and that the delivery methods used within the course are likely to be effective for attendees. Where pre-course entry requirement checks are undertaken for on-line delivery, please include who will undertake the check and how this is confirmed to the teaching and/or assessment staff.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 4 – Training course structure and timescales

This criterion requires detail of the structure of the course, and how students are guided from one module to another, especially when using remote or on-line platforms.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that the following information is provided:

- i) the expected time (in hours) for the total training programme to be completed;
- ii) timescales for each module;
- iii) the number of trainers available to support learners;
- iv) any course work required to be submitted by the learner.

Criterion 5 – Training course delivery methods and learning styles

This criterion requires detail of the course delivery methods and learning styles that your course is designed to cater for.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that the following information is provided:

- i) delivery methods and materials used throughout the course – including specific reference to the admin and learner interface within the named learning platform;
- ii) learning styles catered for – citing the specific model(s) used – e.g Kolb, Honey and Mumford, Fleming's Vark (Vak) model, NLP, cognitive; other
- iii) explanation of how the delivery methods meet learner needs through the use of the above learning styles, and how different learners and learning styles are supported on-line.

Criterion 6 – Internationally/nationally recognised standards, frameworks, criteria

This criterion requires evidence of the internationally/nationally recognised industry or occupational standards, training frameworks and/or specified criteria that your course links to. If there is no such link, please provide your rationale and explain the basis on which the course content has been devised.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that you provide:

- i) the title of the standards, training frameworks and or course criteria that your course links to;
- ii) mapping of course content to the identified standards and/or information that demonstrates the extent to which the course meets the identified standards/frameworks/criteria. This should be sufficiently detailed and clear to enable claims to be verified.
- iii) contact details or a web address where the standards or training framework that your course is mapped against, so that this can be obtained if necessary.
- iv) the rationale and basis for course content in cases where your course does not link to recognised industry standards, training frameworks and /or specified criteria.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 7 – Professional/industry body membership/accreditation

This criterion requires evidence of any professional/industry body membership/accreditation that the company/organisation has and any relevant detail of how it relates to the training course.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that evidence is provided of:

- i) company/organisation professional/industry body membership;
- ii) detail of how the above membership relates to relevant aspects of the training course.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 8 – Assessment processes and tools

This criterion requires detail of the processes used to assess the extent to which course outcomes have been met.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that information is provided about:

- i) the assessment types (formative and/or summative) and tools that will be utilised, including the types of assessment used to measure the standard where a specific level must be achieved for a successful outcome to the course - e.g. written, oral or multi-choice tests, with relevant examples of each assessment format used;
- ii) the appropriateness of the above assessment types for the purpose;
- iii) where practical assessments are considered, then the evidence submitted must provide details of how these are able to replace or replicate standard practical assessment by observation
- iv) security of the assessment process, to ensure no ghosting or external assistance of the learner occurs

NB – some courses will not have assessed outcomes, which is perfectly acceptable depending on the type and nature of the course. Where there is no requirement for formal assessment, detail must be provided about registration and attendance. Formative

assessment processes should still be included in these cases, so that an understanding can be gained of how delivery is adjusted to ensure participants achieve maximum benefit.

Criterion 9 – Management and administration of the course and course resource requirements

This criterion requires detail of how the course will be managed and administered. It also requires information on those involved, along with the resources that will be used to deliver the training course. Information addressing this criterion must include physical and equipment resources and copies of all material resources used in the course.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that the following information is provided:

- i) the named person/people with responsibility for managing and administering the course;
- ii) the specific responsibilities of each person;
- iii) the physical resource requirements and how these will be met (photographic evidence is acceptable);
- iv) the equipment resource requirements and how these will be met;
- v) copies of all course materials.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 10 – Trainer and assessor competence

This criterion requires detail of the trainers that will deliver the training course and any assessors involved in assessment. Evidence is required of their qualifications, industry and training/assessor expertise. This should also cover any sub-contracted trainers. Include copies of qualification certificates and references covering specific expertise, as utilised in the course, where identified in academic/consultant/trainer/assessor profiles. NB – it is required that trainers have teacher/lecturer/train the trainer/coaching expertise.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that:

- i) all trainers/assessors involved in course delivery are identified, along with a relevant CV for each;
- ii) copies of qualifications/references are provided for each trainer, identifying their specific expertise as required/utilised for course delivery/assessment.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 11 – Quality assurance

This criterion requires evidence of the recognised, or suitable equivalent internal, quality assurance system(s) in place within the company/organisation that relate to this training course. Include detail of course monitoring and reviewing, self-evaluation and continuous professional development processes that are in place to ensure the training course is current, up-to-date and continues to meet industry/company needs. You should also include the processes used to deal with contingency situations, such as sessions needing to be cancelled at short notice etc.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that information is provided about how you plan to quality assure the course, along with relevant evidence of;

- i) extent and frequency of course reviews, standardisation / moderation and evaluation activities;
- ii) trainer self-evaluation and continuous professional development processes.
- iii) processes in place to deal with contingency situations.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 12 – Certification

This criterion requires detail of any certification and its validity that will be provided to those achieving the course outcomes.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that, where certification of any type is an outcome of the course, a copy is provided that identifies relevant course details, the nature of the certificate, and any expiry date where relevant.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 13 – Training course publicity/information provision

This criterion requires details and examples of any publicity/information available about the training course. Where you do not have such information, please provide your rationale.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that relevant publicity/information/mock-up of marketing materials is provided, covering:

- i) software platform availability;
- ii) the expected duration for learner involvement or study period;
- iii) the course objectives and outcomes, outline content and structure;
- iv) the range of learning material to be delivered;
- v) the assessment processes;
- vi) the final certification process, and how certificate security is maintained if remote learning and assessment;
- vii) the course costs;
- viii) the type of device required to support your learning platform software.

Criterion 14 – Records

This criterion requires evidence of the course record-keeping processes, including details of secure storage and how you are meeting data protection requirements, along with the type of information recorded, its purpose and any links to your quality procedures.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that information about the record-keeping processes is provided, covering, as required:

- i) the type of information recorded;
- ii) the purposes of storing it;
- iii) storage of paper-based records;
- iv) storage of electronic records;
- v) data protection issues and requirements;
- vi) relevant links to identified quality assurance procedures.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 15 – Complaints process

This criterion requires detail of the complaints process and how this is communicated to course participants.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that information and evidence (where available) is provided about:

- i) the complaints process;
- ii) how the process is communicated to course participants;
- iii) relevant links to identified quality assurance procedures.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

Criterion 16 – Course revisions/changes

This criterion requires detail of the process to inform the MNTB of major course revisions and minor changes to any of the above criteria.

To fully meet this criterion it is expected that information will be provided on the processes to inform the MNTB about:

- i) major revisions covering changes to;
 - course aims and objectives
 - amends to, additions or deletions of topics
 - amends to, additions or deletions of delivery methods
 - timing changes that impact on specific topics and/or the overall duration of the course
 - the appointment of new trainers to the course;
- ii) minor changes to;
 - course timings that do not impact on topic coverage
 - materials and to marketing literature or trainer notes.

Response, including supporting documentation references: NB: this documentation must be separately provided with the submission

About the MNTB

The MNTB is the UK shipping industry's central body for developing and promoting sector specific education, training and skills. Its role in setting training frameworks for new entrant officer and rating trainees and course criteria for STCW regulatory requirements places it in a unique position to oversee the training of future generations of high-quality British seafarers, who are respected worldwide for their professionalism and skills.

The MNTB is a voluntary body and a part of the UK Chamber of Shipping, the trade association for the UK shipping industry. The work of the MNTB is overseen by a Board made up of representatives of shipping companies, seafarer unions, maritime education and training, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). The Department for Transport and the Maritime Skills Alliance are also represented on the Board.

A key role of the MNTB is to bring together these industry partners to agree the system and processes for new entrant seafarer education and training to meet regulatory and industry needs for a well qualified and certificated workforce. It also encompasses the availability and quality of updating and ongoing training for those serving at sea and for those moving ashore into ship management and related activities.