

Foreign crew members participate in crew officers training Q&A

Foreign Crew Member

1. What are the benefits of letting foreign crew members to participate in crew officers training?

Ans :

- (1) After obtaining the practicing certificate of each category, foreign crew members can serve as crew officers other than the captain.
- (2) After foreign crew members of coastal fishing vessels have obtained certificates of completion, employers may apply for transfer to intermediate-level technical jobs (long-term employment scheme of migrant workers) in accordance with regulations. There is no limit on the number of times they are employed every three years, and they are not subject to the limitation that the cumulative period of employment of marine fishing workers in our country may not exceed 12 years. Those who apply for transfer to intermediate-level technical workforce shall meet one of the following conditions and may be hired for intermediate -level technical work:
 - a. Those who are currently employed and have worked continuously for more than 6 years.
 - b. Workers who have been employed and worked abroad for a cumulative period of more than 6 years and then re-entered the country, and their working period has reached the working period stipulated in Article 52 of the Employment Service Act (marine fishery is 12 years).
 - c. Those who have been employed for work, and the accumulative working period has reached the working period stipulated in Article 52 of the Employment Service Act (marine fishery is 12 years), and have gone abroad.
- (3) For long-term employment scheme of migrant workers, one can go the Ministry of Labor's "Information page on the Retention of Foreign Intermediate Skilled Workforce Program" at the website: <https://fw.wda.gov.tw/wda-employer/home/mid-foreign-labor>

2. Which crew officer training can foreign crew members participate in? Can a foreign crew member obtain a crew officer's certificate immediately after completing the training?

Ans :

- (1) Foreign crew members can participate in the training of junior crew officers such as the second level mate in the fishing and navigation

department, the first level engineer in the engineering department, and the second level chief engineer. After completing the training course and passing the test, the Fisheries Agency will issue a certificate of training completion. After obtaining the training completion certificate, foreign crew members can apply for the crew officer practice certificate as long as they have more than 3 years of experience in the same discipline as the training in the fishing vessel of Taiwanese nationality.

- (2) After completing the training, those who meet the training qualification of high-ranking crew officers such as first level mates and chief engineer can continue to participate in high-ranking crew officer training.

3. What qualifications are required for foreign crew members to participate in crew officer training?

Ans :

- (1) Foreign crew members of coastal and offshore fishing vessels: passed the elementary level or above of Chinese Writing Test and have worked on a Taiwanese fishing boat for more than 1 year; or have worked on a Taiwanese fishing boat for more than 2 years and being able to communicate in Mandarin and Taiwanese, they can participate in a training class for crew officers of our nationality.
- (2) Foreign crew members of distant water fishing vessels: for those who passed the elementary level or above of Chinese Writing Test and have worked on a Taiwanese fishing boat for more than 1 year; or for those who have worked on a Taiwanese fishing boat for more than 2 years, can participate in the special training class for foreign crew officers.

4. How should foreign crew members register if they want to participate in crew officer training?

Ans :

- (1) If foreign crew members of the coastal and offshore fishing vessels meet the training qualifications, the employer shall fill in a recommendation application form for training, and recommend the application to the local fisheries association where the employer belongs. After interviewing foreign crew members online, the Fisheries Agency will arrange the training for those who have the ability to communicate in both Mandarin and Taiwanese.
- (2) If foreign crew members of the distant water fishing vessels meet the training qualifications, the employer shall fill in a recommendation

application form for training, and recommend the application to the distant water fisheries guild or association where the employer belongs.

5. Do foreign crew members have to serve as fishing boat crew officers after training?

Ans :

Ans: The duties of foreign crew members on board shall be assigned by the owners of fishing vessels. After a foreign crew member has completed the training and obtained the crew officer's practice certificate, it only means that they have the qualification to serve as a crew officer, and it is not mandatory to be a fishing boat crew officer.

6. Is the crew officer's practice certificate permanently valid after foreign crew member obtains it?

Ans :

Ans:

The current crew officer's practice certificate is valid for a maximum of 5 years, and the renewal must be completed within 1 year before the expiration date.

7. Can foreign crew members serve as captains of fishing vessels?

Ans :

Ans: Foreign crew members cannot serve as captains of fishing vessels of our nationality, and can only serve as crew officers other than the captain.

8. Do foreign crew members have to pay for training when they participate in crew officer training? Are food and accommodations provided?

Ans :

(1) During the training period, the training and accommodation (free accommodation provided by the Kaohsiung Headquarters of the Fisheries Agency) of foreign crew members of offshore fishing vessels are free of charge, and other living needs such as food, transportation, daily necessities and management need to be handled by themselves.

(2) During the training period of foreign crew members of distant water fishing vessels, the training fees shall be paid by the employer (fishing company), and foreign crew members do not need to pay for training and accommodation (the Kaohsiung Headquarters of the Fisheries Agency provides free accommodation). Other living needs such as food, transportation, daily necessities and management need to be handled by themselves.

9. When the foreign crew members of coastal and offshore fishing vessels participate in the training, what are the salary and leave during the training period?

Ans :

Ans: The salary and leave during the training period shall comply with the Labor Standards Act:

(1) Those assigned by the employer to participate in the training shall be given official leave and paid wages.

(2) Foreign crew members voluntarily participate in training:

a. Foreign crew members who ask for special leave shall be paid.

b. Foreign crew members who ask for personal leave may not be paid.

10. Where are the training courses for foreign crew officers? How long will it take?

Ans :

Ans: The class is held at the National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology Cijin Campus (Maritime Training Center).

(1) The training time of the second level chief engineer is 84 hours (10.5 days), and the training period is 12 days.

(2) The training time for foreign crew members of coastal and offshore fishing vessels to participate in first level engineer officer and second level mate crew officer of our nationality training classes is 192 hours (24 days), and the training period is 1 month.

(3) The training time for foreign crew members of distant water fishing vessels to participate in first level engineer officer and second level mate crew officer of foreign nationality training classes is 224 hours (28 days), and the training period is 1 month.

11. Does the crew officer training provide food and accommodation? Is there a charge?

Ans :

Ans: During the training period, foreign crew members will be treated as crew members with Taiwanese nationality and will only be provided with free accommodation at the Kaohsiung Headquarters of the Fisheries Agency. Others such as food, transportation, daily necessities and management must be handled by themselves.

12. What are the contents of crew officer training?

Ans: The training content of crew officer of all ranks is in accordance with the requirements of the “International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (STCW-F)”. The content of the course is as follows:

(1) Courses for second level chief engineer: Small and medium-sized marine diesel engine internship, aquatic resource protection, refrigerator, refrigerator internship, disaster emergency notification method, metalworking internship, conservation regulations, maritime regulations, maritime accident prevention and maritime report production, marine electricity, marine electricity internship, damage control, communication management, fishery regulations, auxiliary machinery (including fishing machinery), auxiliary machinery internship, leadership, engine log, professional ethics.

(2) Courses for first level engineer: operation and maintenance of fishing vessel power unit (including hands-on course), material properties, regulations on fire-fighting equipment, marine electrical equipment (including hands-on course), automatic control systems (including hands-on course), damage control (including hands-on course), auxiliary machinery systems (including hands-on course), refrigeration system, equipment maintenance and repair safety, prevention of marine environmental pollution, engine operation safety, engine navigational watch, crew management, fishery regulations, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, protection of aquatic resources, and class meetings.

(3) Courses for second level mate: geography and inshore navigation (including hands-on course), radar pilotage (including hands-on course), navigational watch, nautical instrument (including hands-on course), meteorology and oceanography, compass, fire prevention and firefighting, survival, emergency procedures and safety work, operation and manipulation of fishing vessels, stability of fishing vessels, loading and unloading and storage of catches, fishing vessel construction, medical care, search and rescue, prevention of marine environmental pollution, communication, interpersonal relations, maritime regulations, responsible fishery, class meeting.

13. Is the crew officers training taught in Chinese? Are there any Chinese teaching materials?

Ans :

- (1) Foreign crew members of coastal and offshore fishing vessels who participate in the training class for Taiwanese nationality, take classes with Taiwanese people, and the classes are taught in Chinese (Mandarin and Taiwanese). Chinese teaching materials will be provided.
- (2) Foreign crew members of distant water fishing vessels participate in the training class for foreign nationality, and the classes are taught in foreign crew member's native language. Native language translation teaching materials for crew members will be provided.

14. Is there a test for crew officer training? What are the contents of the tests?

Ans: Yes, tests are required. The content of the test is as follows:

- (1) Second level chief engineer: tests for small and medium-sized marine diesel engines, marine electricity, refrigerators, auxiliary machinery (including fishing machinery), and training completion tests, with a total of 5 subjects (the test papers are bilingual).
- (2) First level engineer: operation and maintenance of fishing vessel power unit, refrigeration system, equipment maintenance and maintenance safety, auxiliary machinery, automatic control system, material properties, marine electricity, equipment maintenance and maintenance safety, refrigeration system and training completion tests. There are 9 subjects in total (the test papers are bilingual).
- (3) Second level mates: navigational watch, compass, meteorology and oceanography, radar pilotage, nautical instrument, geography and inshore navigation, fishing vessel operation and maneuvering, and training completion tests, etc., There are a total of 8 subjects (tests papers are bilingual).

15. After the foreign crew members complete the training and meet the experience requirements, how do they obtain the crew officer's certificate?

Ans: Attach the following information and apply to Fisheries Agency for practicing certificates of various disciplines:

- (1) Application form for practicing certificates for fishing vessel crew officers.
- (2) The residence permit or a copy of the employment authorization letter for the current employment in marine fishing work.
- (3) A 2.5 inch front-facing, hat-off photo within the past 1 year.
- (4) The original certificate of completion of professional training for crew officers.
- (5) The original work certificate issued by the ship owner.

- (6) The original copy of the physical examination certificate.
- (7) Practice certificate fee, NT\$125 (NT\$250 for first level chief engineer).

16. What documents should foreign crew members need to prepare for the renewal of the crew officer certificate upon expiration?

Ans: The following materials shall be prepared for certificate renewal upon expiration:

- (1) Application form for practicing certificates for fishing vessel crew officers.
- (2) The residence permit or a copy of the employment authorization letter for the current employment in marine fishing work.
- (3) A 2.5 inch front-facing, hat-off photo within the past 1 year.
- (4) The original copy of the physical examination certificate.
- (5) Practice certificate fee, NT\$125 (NT\$250 for first level chief engineer).

17. Is there any time limit for applying for the crew officer practicing certificate after receiving the certificate of completion of professional training for crew officers?

Ans:

The certificate of completion of professional training for crew officers must be within 5 years of the date of issuance. If it exceeds 5 years, a proof of 1 year of overseas operation in the last 5 years must be submitted.

18. Which medical institutions should I go to, in order to apply for the physical examination for the crew officer certificate?

Ans: Public hospitals, teaching hospitals qualified by the central competent health authority, or health clinics affiliated to the municipal or county (city) health bureaus.

19. How to determine whether the physical examination is qualified?

Ans :

- (1) Vision: At a distance of 5 meters, the visual acuity of any eye reaches 0.1 or the corrected vision reaches 0.5 by the IWC.
- (2) Color discrimination ability: Those who can distinguish the three primary colors of red, green and blue are judged to be qualified in discoloration ability.
- (3) Hearing: If the ear can hear the sound of speech at a distance of 5 meters, the hearing is judged to be qualified.
- (4) Language barriers: Those who can communicate with voice are judged to

be qualified for language barriers.

(5) Head and neck, spine, limbs, and joints: the function is normal, or if there is a disability but can be qualified as a worker, the head and neck, spine, limbs, and joints have to be judged to be qualified.

20. Where should applicants send the application materials?

Ans :

Please send the application materials to the Taipei Heping Building of the Fisheries Agency: 6th Floor, No. 100, Section 2, Heping West Road, Zhongzheng District, Taipei City 100060, and mark "Application for crew officer practicing certificate". If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Chen at 02-2383-5830.

Employers

1. What are the benefits of foreign crew members participating in crew officers' training?

Ans :

- (1) After obtaining the practicing certificate of each category, foreign crew members can serve as crew officers other than the captain.
- (2) After foreign crew members of coastal fishing vessels have obtained certificates of completion, employers may apply for transfer to intermediate-level technical jobs (long-term employment scheme of migrant workers) in accordance with regulations. There is no limit on the number of times they are employed every three years, and they are not subject to the limitation that the cumulative period of employment of marine fishing workers in our country may not exceed 12 years. Those who apply for transfer to intermediate-level technical workforce shall meet one of the following conditions and may be hired for intermediate-level technical work:
 - a. Those who are currently employed and have worked continuously for more than 6 years.
 - b. Workers who have been employed and worked abroad for a cumulative period of more than 6 years and then re-entered the country, and their working period has reached the working period stipulated in Article 52 of the Employment Service Act (marine fishery is 12 years).
 - c. Those who have been employed for work, and the accumulative working period has reached the working period stipulated in Article 52 of the Employment Service Act (marine fishery is 12 years), and have gone abroad.
- (3) For long-term employment scheme of migrant workers, one can go the Ministry of Labor's "Information page on the Retention of Foreign Intermediate Skilled Workforce Program" at the website: <https://fw.wda.gov.tw/wda-employer/home/mid-foreign-labor>

2. How can foreign crew members participate in crew officers training?

Ans :

- (1) If domestically employed foreign crew members meet the training qualifications, the employed fisherman shall fill in a recommendation application form for training, and recommend the application to the local fisheries association where the fisherman belongs. After interviewing foreign crew members online, the Fisheries Agency will arrange the

training for those who have the ability to communicate in both Mandarin and Taiwanese.

- (2) If overseas employed foreign crew members meet the training qualifications, the employer shall fill in a recommendation application form for training, and recommend the application to the offshore fisheries guild or associations where the employer belongs.

3. What kinds of crew officer training do foreign crew members participate in? After completing the training, can foreign crew members immediately obtain the crew officer practicing certificate?

Ans :

- (1) Foreign crew members can participate in the training of junior crew officers such as the second level mate in the fishing and navigation department, the first level engineer in the engineering department, and the second level chief engineer. After completing the training course and passing the test, the Fisheries Agency will issue a certificate of training completion. After obtaining the training completion certificate, foreign crew members can apply for the crew officer practice certificate as long as they have more than 3 years of experience in the same discipline as the training in the fishing vessel of Taiwanese nationality.
- (2) After completing the training, those who meet the training qualification of high-ranking crew officers such as first level mates and chief engineer can continue to participate in high-ranking crew officer training.

4. For foreign crew members to participate in crew officer training, should the employer pay for the training?

Ans :

- (1) During the training period, the training and accommodation (free accommodation provided by the Kaohsiung Headquarters of the Fisheries Agency) of foreign crew members of offshore fishing vessels are free of charge, and other living needs such as food, transportation, daily necessities and management need to be handled by themselves. In order to cultivate crew officers on fishing vessels, employers may consider paying long-distance transportation fees.
- (2) During the training period of foreign crew members of distant water fishing vessels, the training fees shall be paid by the employer (fishing company), and foreign crew members do not need to pay for training and accommodation (the Kaohsiung Headquarters of the Fisheries Agency

provides free accommodation). Other living needs such as food, transportation, daily necessities and management need to be handled by themselves. In order to cultivate crew officers on fishing vessels, employers may consider paying long-distance transportation fees.

5. Can foreign crew members be able to serve as crew officers immediately after participating in the training?

Ans :

After a foreign crew member has obtained a training certificate, as long as they have accumulated more than 3 years of experience of crew officer service the same as the training rank on a Taiwanese fishing vessel, they can apply for the practicing certificate of that rank. And they can be employed to serve as a crew officer of that category.