



MECAL TECHNICAL NOTE

MTN 26-1

Issued by the *MECAL* Technical Committee

DEFINITION OF CREW & TRAINEES

Reference: All Vessels – Section 26

The MECAL Technical Committee meeting in Dec 2002 included advice from the MCA on definitions of crew / passenger / trainee:
This is summarized as follows:

CREW

Persons over the minimum school leaving age (about 16) who have a **contractually binding agreement** to serve on the vessel in some defined capacity may be considered as “crew”. The **contractually binding agreement** may be verbal but obedience to the Masters’ lawful commands is considered to be part of any such agreement. There is no requirement for “crew” to be paid so the fact that some payment is made for the privilege is of no consequence.

Providing that the vessel carries no more than 12 “passengers” (i.e. anyone below school leaving age but above one year of age, and anyone not employed or engaged in any capacity on the vessel) it is not necessary for a Passenger Certificate to be issued.

TRAINEES

A trainee is a person who is undergoing documented and structured training, who has no safety critical responsibilities with regard to the operation of the vessel. In this instance a formal safety induction and familiarization with the vessel, including use of LSA and fire fighting equipment, would form part of the structured training. The trainee is to be carried on the vessel to undergo training only and he/she should not be an employee of any other person or body, directly or indirectly concerned with any aspect of the operation of the vessel. The carriage of trainees is also subject to agreement with the MCA.

Unless otherwise authorized by the MCA, no person under the upper limit of compulsory school age can be regarded as a trainee. Any persons under such age should be treated as passengers.

Trainees must be provided with accommodation, equipment and provisions as detailed in the Code with respect to passengers. The presence of trainees on board a vessel should be documented in the vessel’s log or other appropriate documentation.