

## Ring-fenced NZOW, NZOM and NZCM certificates

As it is coming up to five years since your verification of status (VOS) card was issued you now have some decisions to make. As a holder of a ring-fenced NZOM, NZOW or NZCM certificate, you are required to satisfy currency requirements every five years if you want to continue to exercise the privileges of your certificate.

There are three options for you to consider:

**Option one** – you wish to continue to exercise the privileges of your certificate – see the guidance below on how to satisfy the currency requirements of your certificate.

**Option two** – you don't currently wish to exercise the privileges of your certificate but think you might at a later date – see the guidance below on how to go about this in the future.

**Option three** – you don't wish to use your certificate – there is nothing further required from you at the moment.

### Please note

Regardless of how you wish to proceed, you don't ever lose your certificate. This remains yours for life.

The requirement to satisfy currency requirements every five years only applies to those who would like to exercise the privileges of their certificates.

### Option one

If you want to continue to exercise the privileges of your ring-fenced certificate you must complete the satisfying currency requirements [application form](#) and send it to Seafarers (via email) [seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz).

To satisfy currency requirements you must:

- demonstrate appropriate sea service (or equivalent and acceptable continued competence)
- hold a current medical certificate (issued within the last two years) and
- continue to be a fit and proper person.

The level of currency required will depend on whether you are using STCW, National or STCW-F privileges.

For certificate holders using or intending to use STCW privileges, you must do one of the following:

- complete 12 months of sea service within 5 years preceding your application OR
- complete 3 months of sea service within 6 months preceding your application OR
- complete 30 months in a relevant shore based role within 5 years preceding your application OR
- pass a relevant examination.

For certificate holders using National or STCW-F privileges, you must either:

- complete 6 months of sea service within 5 years preceding your application OR
- complete 45 days of sea service within 3 months preceding your application OR
- complete 30 months in a relevant shore based role within 5 years preceding your application OR
- pass a relevant examination.

## What to do if you have not meet the minimum currency requirements

If you are using or plan to use the privileges of your certificate and have not satisfied the currency requirements within 5 years from the date your VOS card was issued, then you can apply for an exemption from the currency requirements for a short period to allow you more time to gain the currency levels required.

Each exemption is treated on an individual basis, so the period the exemption is granted for will depend on your personal circumstances. The Maritime Exemptions Officer will discuss your options with you.

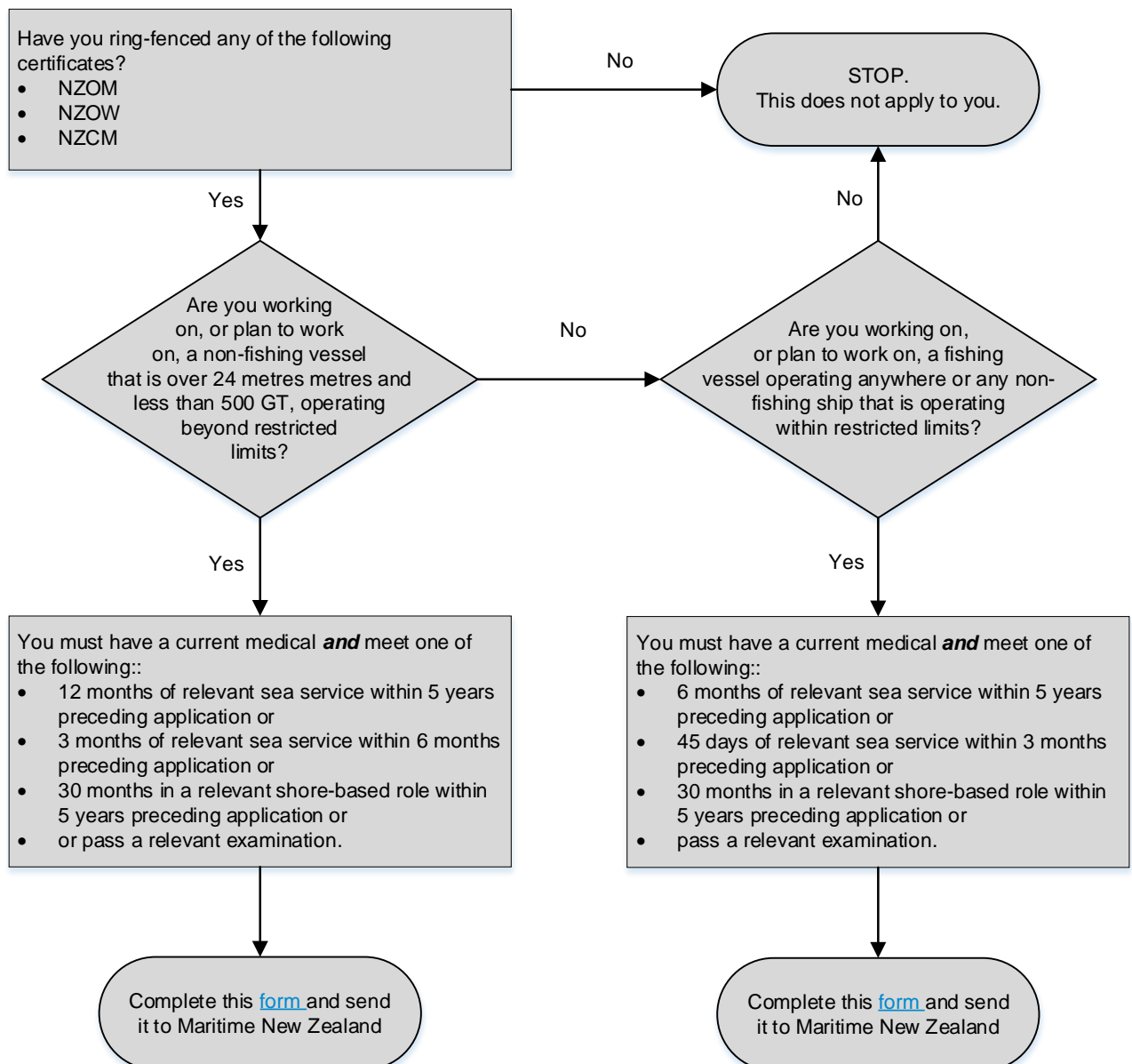
To apply for an exemption go to the Maritime NZ website.

[www.maritimenz.govt.nz/exemptions](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/exemptions)

The flow chart below will help you determine if this applies to you or not and what you need to do. Alternatively, use the [online tool](#).

### Do I need to satisfy currency requirements?

Holders of ring-fenced NZOM, NZOW and NZCM certificates must satisfy currency requirements every five years. Check the date your VOS card was issued. Ideally you need to apply in the 3 months before the five years is up.



## Option two

If you are not exercising the privileges of your ring fenced NZOM, NZOW or NZCM certificate(s) currently, but think you might want to do so in the future, then there are options for you to be able to meet the currency requirements at a later stage.

When you decide you want to use the privileges of your ring-fenced certificate again you must complete the satisfying currency requirements [application form](#) and send it to Seafarers (via email) [seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz). The currency requirements you will need to meet at that time are:

- sit and pass a relevant exam as an alternative to sea service - the examiner must be recognised by the Director under Maritime Rules Part 35 and must be able to assess for the equivalent seafarer certificate OR
- complete 30 months in a relevant shore based role within 5 years preceding your application OR
- apply for an exemption AND
- hold a current medical certificate (issued within the last two years) AND
- continue to be a fit and proper person.

## Option three

If you are not exercising the privileges of your ring fenced NZOM, NZOW or NZCM certificate(s) currently, and don't think you will be in the future, then there is nothing further you need to do.

Please note, your certificate does not expire but you will not be able to exercise the privileges associated with your certificate of competency. If at any stage you do decide you want to exercise the privileges of your certificate(s), then you can use the options set out in Option two (above) to do this.

## Have some questions or need further assistance?

If you have any questions in relation to the above, please contact us at the email address below and we will get back in touch to assist you.

[seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz)