

9 March 2009

The lure of the sea

NSW Maritime's Commercial Vessel section oversees certification courses for all those who seek a career on commercial vessels on NSW waterways.

NSW Maritime is a proud partner in the 2009 National Career Development Week.

Working on a commercial vessel could be just the career for you and there's no time like the present as there's a shortage of qualified people in the maritime sector.

Under NSW law, any person working as crew on a commercial vessel on our state's waterways must hold a certificate of competency from NSW Maritime.

General purpose hands only require the completion of an approved course of study.

Certificates of competency ensure that people operating commercial vessels are competent and medically fit for their assigned tasks and areas of operation.

To obtain a certificate of competency, applicants must:

- Complete appropriate training
- Meet minimum qualifying sea service requirements (recreational boating experience can help gain an entry level certificate)
- Meet minimum age requirements
- Meet specific medical and eyesight standards
- Pass a final assessment by a NSW Maritime examiner
- Pay fees.

There are all kinds of careers for all types of skilled people ranging from marine engine drivers to skippers, coxswains, master mariners, deckhands and engineers.

After you complete your training and get your certificate of competency, your new career could involve you working in the Australian charter industry, ferries or cargo vessels.

To find out more about certificates of competency, the recognition of certificates gained from other authorities, approved sailing schools and everything you ever wanted to know about certification for a career at sea, go to www.maritime.nsw.gov.au - commercial vessels.

Media contact: Neil Patchett 0418 279 465