

Old Offshore Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

Version V4.9

Here is a list of the questions we are most often asked by DPOs currently working through the training scheme to become certified DP Operators. Please read through them carefully and also the documents listed below before contacting The Nautical Institute, as they will answer most of your questions about the DP Operator's training scheme.

Click on the document titles to access them. Also, clicking on the [blue](#) text within this document will open the relevant web pages for the documents and forms.

Please note that these FAQs are intended for DPOs currently on the Old Offshore scheme who own an NI blue/green or black logbook. If you own a grey New Offshore or burgundy Shuttle Tanker logbook, please go to the relevant sections on the **DP Help Page** of the Alexis Platform website to access the correct FAQs.

- [New Offshore Scheme FAQs](#) (Under "New Scheme")
- [Shuttle Tanker Scheme FAQs](#)

Please ensure that you complete your logbook in the correct order, as failure to do so may result in your application being rejected and you having to complete additional sea time and/or retake courses.

-  ***Dynamic Positioning Operator's Certificate***
-  ***Blue/Green DP Logbook Guide*** for A6 size logbooks issued up to December 2012
-  ***Black DP New Logbook Guide*** for A5 size logbooks issued from 2013 – 2014
-  ***Old Offshore Scheme - Online Application Guide***

IMPORTANT

It is mandatory for ALL applications for DP certificates to be completed using our [DP online application system](#). Once this has been successfully completed, please send your required documents to The Nautical Institute for processing.

Any applications received at The Nautical Institute without first being applied for online will be returned unprocessed by standard post. The Nautical Institute assumes no responsibility for any documents lost in transit.

Please note that a payment by credit card/debit card/PayPal is required to complete the online application process.

Minimum Requirements

- I do not hold an OOW certificate. Can I still apply for a DP certificate?
- Am I ready to apply for a certificate?

Courses

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- I took my Basic/Advanced course(s) over 5 years ago. Is this OK?
- Can I take my Advanced course directly after my Basic course (Back to Back)?
- Why have I been asked to retake my Basic/Advanced course(s) and/or sea time?
- I have vast previous DP experience. Can I be exempt from taking the Basic and/or Advanced course(s)?
- Why must I complete 30 DP sea time days after each course?

DP Sea time: Familiarisation and Watchkeeping

- Is sea time accrued on board any DP equipped vessel eligible to gain a DP certificate?
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- POSMOOR - I have DP watchkeeping time on board a vessel equipped with POSMOOR. Can I use this to gain a DP certificate?
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- My Section C has been block signed. Is this OK?
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- Does DP experience gained before the induction course count?
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- I have over the required days recorded in Section B (Seagoing DP Familiarisation) of my logbook. Can these additional days be used to make up my DP watchkeeping time?
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Applying Online

- I am having trouble with the online application. Can I send in my logbook without completing this?
- I have registered online but have not received my login details. What should I do?
- I do not know my customer number. How can I find it?
- I cannot find the vessel to select on the online application. What should I do?
- My payment is showing as unsuccessful. Why is this?
- I have not received my PDF form. What should I do?
- I cannot complete the online application. What should I do?

Lost/Stolen Documents

- I have not received my certificate and logbook. What should I do?
- I have lost my certificate/logbook. How do I obtain replacements?

Miscellaneous

- I am the Master applying for my DP certificate. Can I sign Sections B, C, E and F myself?
- Why has the signature on my PDF Checklist form been queried?
- How can I obtain Junior or Senior DPO Certification?
- My logbook is full. How do I obtain a new one?
- Can I replace my old logbook with a new style one?
- I have an old card certificate. Can I change it to a new credit card size certificate?
- How do I upgrade my Limited certificate?
- How long is my certificate valid for?

I do not hold an OOW certificate. Can I still apply for a DP certificate?

Before 1 January 2012, it was not a statutory requirement for DPOs to hold an OOW certificate to be able to become a certified DPO. The DP Operators training programme was open to all ranks, provided they could meet the required DP watchkeeping time.

However, since 1 January 2012, the OOW certificate has become a minimum requirement for DPOs taking the Induction /Basic course for the first time on or after this date.

Minimum Qualification Requirement

The Nautical Institute implemented the following criteria for entry onto the DP Operators Old Offshore Scheme:

- The minimum qualification is set at STCW Regulation II/1 - II/2 - II/3 Deck and Regulation III/1 - III/2 - III/3 Engine.
- Prospective DPOs, who are in the process of training for an STCW certificate can start the DP scheme and complete the Induction/Basic course and 30 DP familiarisation days only. The Simulator/Advanced course and DP watchkeeping training can only be completed after they hold an appropriate STCW certificate of competency.
- Prospective DPOs, with alternative appropriate Marine Vocational Qualifications (MVQs) will not need an authorisation letter from The Nautical Institute to start the training scheme if their MVQ is listed on the approved list. The approved list is available on The NI Alexis Platform website: <http://www.nialexisplatform.org/certification>.

Prospective DPOs, not meeting the above requirements will be able to apply for certification, if they commenced training prior to the implementation date (1 January 2012) and all elements have been completed within a 5 year period at the time of application.

*Marine Vocational qualification: is a non-STCW Certificate of Competency issued by a white list Maritime Administration for use in the administration's local waters only.

Am I ready to apply for a certificate?

Please ensure ALL sections of your logbook are dated within the last five years and have been completed correctly by reading the DP Operator Certificate Information document *and* DP Logbook Guide or Black DP logbook Guide, depending on which logbook type you own. These documents can be found on our website: <http://www.nialexisplatform.org/dp-help-page/offshore/>. Please apply online via the [NI Alexis Platform website](#) before sending your documents to the DP department for processing. Your completed application documents must be received by The Nautical Institute within this five year validity period.

If you send your application documents to the DP department without firstly applying online and/or having ALL of the sections properly completed and/or with ALL of the supporting documents enclosed with your application, as required by the scheme, The Nautical Institute reserves the right to return your documents unprocessed.

Where can I take/retake my Basic/Advanced course(s)?

The Nautical Institute administers the certification of DPOs and the accreditation of the training providers.

We do not provide training courses. Please visit our website for a list of [Accredited DP Training Centres](#) and contact them directly for course information, including costs.

I took my Basic/Advanced course(s) over 5 years ago. Is this OK?

No. Both the Basic (Induction) and Advanced (Simulator) courses, along with your DP sea time, remain valid within a 5 year period of the date that your application is received by The Nautical Institute. Therefore, you should aim to complete the whole DP training programme within this period otherwise, you will be required

to retake any expired course(s) †. You will not be able to enter any course dates which are over five years old on the online application.

† You are required to redo your 30 days seagoing DP familiarisation (Section B) after retaking the Basic course if it is over 5 years old or will be over 5 years old by the time your reapplication documents are received by The Nautical Institute. If any of the dates in your Section C match expired entries in Section B, then your Section C must also be redone. Additional Seagoing Familiarisation Declaration forms are available on our [website](#).

Can I take my Advanced course directly after my Basic course (Back to Back)?

When taking these courses for the first time, it is a mandatory requirement for you to complete at least 30 DP days seagoing familiarisation between the Basic and Advanced courses and a minimum of 30 DP days after the Advanced course.

If you have previously completed the Basic and Advanced courses but need to retake both courses due to them being expired, you are permitted to take them back to back.

Why have I been asked to retake my Basic/Advanced course(s) and/or sea time?

The training scheme period follows the same principles of the STCW Certificate of Competency (CoC). It is required that ALL components of the training programme be completed within 5 years.

At the time of application, any element (within Sections A, B, C, D, E and F) of the scheme not completed within the 5 year period will have to be repeated.

Please note this policy does not apply when upgrading from Limited DP certificates to Full/Unlimited.

I have vast previous DP experience. Can I be exempt from taking the Basic and/or Advanced course(s)?

The Nautical Institute no longer grants exemptions and it is mandatory for both Basic and Advanced courses to be completed by all DPOs regardless of previous DP experience before a certificate of any kind can be awarded. The Nautical Institute will honour previously approved exemptions, however, proof will be required of the exemption granted.

Why must I complete 30 DP sea time days after each course?

You are required to complete 30 DP sea time days after each of the following courses when taking them for the first time:

- Basic/Induction*
- Advanced/Simulator†
- Sea time Reduction courses (SMS, DPCap, etc)

This is to enable you to validate and put into practice what you have learnt on the course(s).

**The seagoing DP familiarisation period (Section B), plus Section C, must be completed AFTER the Basic course and BEFORE the Advanced. Failure to complete the minimum requirement of days between these courses will result in your application being rejected and you having to complete/retake the seagoing DP familiarisation period and if applicable, the Advanced course followed by a minimum of 30 DP watchkeeping days.*

† Ideally, the required minimum 180 DP watchkeeping days experience should be completed after attending the Advanced course. We do, however, recognise that due to company work schedules this is not always possible. Therefore, if you do accumulate all of the required DP watchkeeping time to qualify for a certificate before attending the Advanced course, you are still required to complete at least a further 30 DP watchkeeping days AFTER the course. If you are repeating the Advanced course you do not need to complete a further 30 DP watchkeeping days after the course.

Is sea time accrued on board any DP equipped vessel eligible to gain a DP certificate?

No. Only seagoing DP familiarisation and watchkeeping time gained working as a DPO on board vessels officially classed as DP by one of the classification societies will be counted towards your required time. Copies of the classification certificate should be on board the vessel and at your company headquarters. The list of class notations can be found on our [website](#).

The following types of sea time cannot be used towards the DP time required to gain a DP certificate under the Old Offshore scheme.

- Autopilot
- Standby – on non DP mode (or in simulator mode)
- Sea time on board POSMOOR vessels

Are all of the vessels on your database DP classed?

No. Our vessel database was created over twenty years ago and while we make every effort to maintain it and keep it up to date, there may be some instances where vessels listed have had their DP status changed, e.g. upgraded, downgraded or even lost their DP status completely. For this reason, we recommend that you check the classification certificate of any DP vessel that you serve on board to ensure that it has been officially classed as DP. Vessels that have not been officially classed, even if they are currently on our database, cannot be used towards gaining a DP certificate. If when checking, you find that the vessel is DP, but its name or class has changed, please send a copy of the classification certificate to the DP department dp@nautinst.org to enable us to amend the entry on our database.

If you find that the vessel is not showing on the list, or that an error message “Fail to validate ship and DP class” appears, this means that we do not have the information available on our database for the application to be completed. To rectify this issue, please contact the vessel or company and obtain the classification certificate for the vessel for the time period that you are claiming. This can be emailed into the DP Department and will be checked before being added to our database.

POSMOOR - I have DP watchkeeping time on board a vessel equipped with POSMOOR. Can I use this to gain a DP certificate?

No, this system is not currently approved by The Nautical Institute. Therefore, sea time served on vessels with this type of system cannot be used for training or to obtain a DP certificate.

I have not completed all of Section C during my 30 DP days familiarisation period. Is this OK?

All of Section C should be completed during the initial 30 days seagoing DP familiarisation period. We do recognise that this may not always be possible due to operational requirements. Therefore, additional trips can be entered in Section B of your logbook to meet the minimum requirements set out below.

If you are unable to complete all of the activities within the time entered in Section B, you must write a note in your logbook with an explanation as to why you were unable to complete the activities in the required period. This should be written on page 7 - item 8, if you own the older style Blue/Green logbook or on page 20 of the newer style Black A5 size logbook.

You must, however, complete a minimum of 50% of the mandatory activities in Section C, within the seagoing DP familiarisation period. The remaining Section C activities must be dated within DP sea time entries recorded in Section B or E of your logbook.

All mandatory items are listed as follows:

1. SHIPHANDLING

- 1.1 Controlling Vessel movements using - Manual controls jointly and individually
- 1.2 Controlling Vessel's movement using - Joystick control
- 1.3 Setting the Vessel up on D.P.
- 1.4 Manoeuvre V/L in Auto D.P. Mode

- 2. DP CONTROL SYSTEM
 - 2.1 General understanding of Dynamic Positioning System installed on vessel
 - 2.2 Use of the desk facilities
 - 2.3 Use of the reference input systems

- 3. DP COMPUTER SYSTEM
 - 3.1 Power Supplies
 - 3.2 Emergency Power supplies
 - 3.3 Alarm signals

- 6. UNDERSTANDING & USE OF PROPULSION UNITS
 - (a) IN MANUAL CONTROL
 - (b) IN D.P. OPERATION

- 7.1 SHIP'S PRIMARY & AUXILIARY SUPPLY ALTERNATIVE GENERATING & DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

- 7.2 UNDERSTANDING & USE OF UPS SYSTEMS

My Section C has been block signed. Is this OK?

No. All completed items must be signed individually. If any items in Section C of your logbook have been block signed please ask the Master who originally signed the Section C to correct this. If it is not possible to get the original Master to re-sign the relevant entries, you should arrange to have a new [Section C \(Seagoing Familiarisation Watchkeeping Declaration\)](#) form completed by the marine superintendent/vessel manager responsible for the vessel the Section C is signed off on. The marine superintendent will also need to confirm in writing that he/she is the person responsible for that specific vessel.

Please note: The dates and vessel stamp on the new Section C must match one of the entries in Section B of your logbook.

Can I use DP watchkeeping time as DP familiarisation?

Only time recorded in Section B of your logbook can be used towards seagoing DP familiarisation, therefore you cannot use DP watchkeeping time logged in Section E for this purpose. The only DP sea time that can be moved is seagoing DP familiarisation time in excess of the required 30 days. This additional time can be entered as DP Watchkeeping Experience, (*Section E*) when applying online. However, to avoid queries with your application, please ensure that the DP familiarisation time remaining in Section B matches the dates in Section C (*Seagoing Familiarisation Watchkeeping Log*).

Do I have enough sea time to qualify for a certificate?

The online Certificate Calculator for the Alexis Platform website is currently under construction. If you think you may have enough DP sea time to qualify for a certificate, log into your online account if you have one or create a new one if not, then enter your DP time into the appropriate sections to calculate the days of each entry.

Can I reduce the amount of practical sea time required to qualify for a DP certificate?

You can reduce the amount of practical sea time required by taking an approved sea time reduction course. Please read [The Nautical Institute Dynamic Positioning Operator's Certificate](#) for a detailed explanation on sea time reduction courses and their restrictions.

Does DP experience gained before the induction course count?

A maximum of 30 days DP sea time gained prior to attending the Basic/Induction course can be counted towards the required DP watchkeeping time to gain a DP certificate. This time must be dated within the previous five years to us receiving your application and must be confirmed with a letter from the Master of the vessel bearing the vessel stamp or be recorded in your Discharge Book. A DP sea time confirmation letter must also be provided.

These 30 days allow employers to continue the practice of evaluating prospective DPOs prior to attending the Basic/Induction course.

Please note that DP sea time gained prior to attending the Basic course counts towards your required DP watchkeeping time only and cannot be used for the seagoing DP familiarisation period (Section B). It must also be dated within five years of The Nautical Institute receiving your application for a DP certificate.

Can I use sea time gained whilst my logbook is in The Nautical Institute office?

No, you are unable to use any DP sea time gained during the period your logbook is being held by the Institute for processing as stated on page 11 of the [Dynamic Positioning Operators Certificate](#) document. If you need further DP time to gain a certificate; upgrade a Limited to a Full/Unlimited or to renew/revalidate an existing certificate, this must be accumulated and entered in your logbook after the logbook has been returned to you.

I have over the required days recorded in Section B (Seagoing DP Familiarisation) of my logbook. Can these additional days be used to make up my DP watchkeeping time?

Yes. DP time in excess of the 30 days required for seagoing DP familiarisation can be counted towards your DP watchkeeping time.

When using the online application process, please enter these additional days in the DP watchkeeping section as the system does not automatically take excess days entered in seagoing DP familiarisation into account when calculating your qualifying DP watchkeeping days.

Please ensure that your entries in Section B that match the dates in the Seagoing DP Familiarisation Watchkeeping Log (Section C) are not moved to DP watchkeeping.

Restrictions:

- Dates entered as DP familiarisation in your application, can only be used once and must not be duplicated in DP watchkeeping.
- DP sea time gained prior to attending the Basic course can only be used towards the required DP watchkeeping time (Section E) and cannot be used for seagoing DP familiarisation. Previous DP sea time is restricted to a maximum of 30 days.

I have more than 150 days recorded in one entry in Section E (DP Watchkeeping). Is this acceptable?

The Institute understands that normally no one stays on board of vessels continually for 150 days. As a result, The Nautical Institute requires the DPO to break down these dates.

Only dates you are involved in DP operations should be recorded in your logbook. If you own an NI black logbook, your dates on DP must be broken down and listed in the "Dates Worked on DP" tables on the DP familiarisation and/or DP watchkeeping pages. If you have more than 150 DP days recorded in one entry in either Section B (Seagoing DP Familiarisation) or Section E (DP Watchkeeping) the [DP sea time confirmation letter](#) provided by your company must verify this and state that all of this time in compliance with our definition of a DP day*.

Please note our online application system allows a maximum of 150 days per entry. Any trip recorded in your logbook over this amount should be split into two entries or more.

One unique DP sea time entry is not acceptable in the new logbook. The new logbook requires that all DP sea time to be broken down according to the use of DP operations.

***DP Day:** Is any day you have performed as a DP operator when the vessel is engaged in DP operations. (A minimum of one hour per day is accepted).

The vessel does not have an official stamp. What should I do?

If a vessel you are on or have previously served on does not have an official stamp, you should write the vessel's name where the ship's stamp should be in Sections B (Seagoing Familiarisation) and/or E (DP Watchkeeping) of your logbook, have it signed by the Master and provide the two following documentations:

- a) Your Seaman's/Discharge Book (original or [certified copy](#) (including photo ID page));

and

- b) A [DP sea time confirmation letter](#) from your shipping company (mandatory for all applications).

I only have a confirmation letter for my DP watchkeeping. Is this enough?

No. ALL sea time which is to be considered for your DP certificate must be confirmed. This means that both your seagoing DP familiarisation and DP watchkeeping time must be verified by the company/is you have worked for; past and present. This letter must meet ALL the criteria as set out by The Nautical Institute.

My company will not give me a DP sea time confirmation letter. What should I do?

If you are unable to obtain the correct sea time confirmation letter for any qualifying DP sea time, you will need to redo this time. Please note that if you are redoing DP familiarisation sea time, this time will need to be entered in the Seagoing DP Familiarisation section, (Section B) and a new Section C must be completed during this time. Additional [Section C \(Seagoing Familiarisation Declaration\)](#) forms are available on our website.

The Nautical Institute provides an option for statutory declarations, judged on a case-by-case basis.

Why has my DP sea time confirmation letter been queried?

There may be a number of reasons why a confirmation letter may be queried. The letter must match the following criteria:

- Be written on original headed paper from the shipping company
- Must contain the official company stamp;
- Signed by the Operations Manager, Marine Superintendent or equivalent. (*Letters signed by Masters, Agency staff and HR personnel are not acceptable because they are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the vessel*).
- Dated (the letter should be written and therefore dated, only once the DPO has achieved the necessary experience);
- Confirm the total time the applicant has performed as a DP operator on board the vessel(s), including the seagoing DP familiarisation period.
- Recorded sea time must only include actual DP time served on board the vessel(s); not time on leave/attending courses, etc. This DP sea time must be broken down and listed as individual trips.
- Limited DPO certificate holders upgrading to Full/Unlimited certificates only need to provide confirmation of DP watchkeeping time gained after their Limited certificate were issued.
- Sea time experience, not covered by a letter will not be considered for the DP application unless the candidate can prove extenuating reasons.

Please note that digital signatures, photocopies and emailed scans will not be accepted. Original signature must be provided.

We also conduct random checks on letters received as part of our verification process.

All confirmation letters should be written and signed only after the company has checked and confirmed the DP sea time through internal logs and data. The confirmation letters cannot be signed based only on the information in the logbook. This information may be requested by the NI for additional checks on applications.

What documents do I need to send when applying for my certificate?

- **NI (or NMD) DP Logbook**
- **PDF Checklist**

A link to this form appears on the main My Account Homepage of your online account once you have successfully submitted your application and made payment by credit card/debit card/PayPal

Please ensure that you complete the checklist and enclose all of the mandatory items required.

Failure to enclose the required documents and/or complete the PDF checklist will result in your application being rejected.

- **Company DP Sea time Confirmation Letter(s)**

To verify ALL seagoing DP familiarisation and DP watchkeeping entries – *This should be done according to the criteria mentioned above.*

- **CoC (Certificate of Competency)**

Certified copy required if your Basic course was taken on or after 1 January 2012. The certified copy of your certificate or licence must be the same one that was presented to the training centre upon commencement of the scheme.

- **Original Limited DP certificate**

If you are applying for an upgrade from a Limited to a Full DP certificate.

- **Passport Photo ID Page**

- **Any other required supporting documents**, e.g. additional Section F, seagoing familiarisation declaration (Section C), etc. [Read](#) the DP Logbook Guide *or* Black DP Logbook Guide for further details.

The Nautical Institute reserves the right to request additional documentation from specific countries as part of their verification process.

Additional Checks

- **Signatures**

It is very important to ensure that your signature on all of your application documents match. In particular, the Section F form and the declaration section of the PDF checklist as these are checked as part of our verification process.

- **Company Return Addresses**

If you have added a company address for the return of your documents, you must also include a contact name and job title or department for a member of shore staff at the given address with whom your documents can be left for safekeeping

e.g. Joe Bloggs

Attention: A N Other, Crew Department...

This is to avoid your documents going astray once they reach their destination.

Is there a fee for processing my application?

Yes. The current price can be found [here](#). It is mandatory for all applications to be paid for by credit card, debit card or PayPal at the end of the online application process.

This fee includes the cost of returning your documents to you by courier. Please do not send in your own personal prepaid courier envelopes.

Does The Nautical Institute make a profit from its DP training scheme?

No. The Nautical Institute Dynamic Positioning training scheme is a not-for-profit scheme that exists solely to meet the needs of the DP industry. The scheme is subject to review by the Dynamic Positioning Training Executive Group (DPTEG), a pan industry forum of training providers, trade organisations and professional associations. DPTEG seeks to ensure that the scheme remains effective in providing the DP industry with competent DP Operators.

What happens when I send my application to The Nautical Institute?

Your account is updated as *'Received and In Process'* and our system will generate automated emails to notify you of the following processing stages of your application:

1. Logbook received
2. Application verified (approved)
3. Documents despatched

Please ensure that you check your inbox and junk/spam box often as we will also contact you by email if a query has been found with your application.

I have not applied online. Will my documents still be processed?

No, they will not. Please refer to ["I am having trouble with the online application. Can I send in my logbook without completing this?"](#)

How long will it take to issue a certificate?

The average time to have an application processed is currently approximately 6 weeks from the time of receipt. However, this time cannot be guaranteed and it may take longer if a problem has been found with your application. Please read the documents recommended on page [one](#) to ensure you have completed your logbook and application correctly. Please also read ["What documents do I need to send when applying for my certificate?"](#)

How do you send the logbook and certificate back?

Documents will be returned by courier as this service is prepaid by the applicant during the online application process.

Is there an express service available?

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide an express service at this time. To be fair to all DPOs, the applications are processed in order of the date they are received.

Can I have a copy of my certificate emailed/faxed to me?

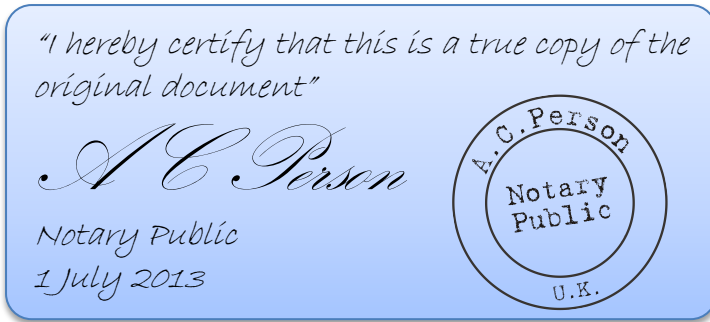
Unfortunately, we are unable to send individuals scanned copies of their certificates.

What is a certified copy?

A certified copy is a photocopy of a document e.g. Birth certificate that has an endorsement or certificate to verify it is a "true copy" of the document presented to the authorised signatory.

The Nautical Institute requires certain document copies submitted with applications to be certified to ensure they are a genuine copy of the original, such as Discharge Book pages and STCW Certificates of Competency. If the document has multiple pages, EACH page must be certified and stamped.

The following is an example of the wording required on certified copies.



Requirements:

- "True Copy"
- Signature
- Name and job title of signatory
- Date
- Company stamp/Emboss
- Date certified

We accept certified copies signed by

- Justice of the Peace
- Solicitor
- Notary Public
- Officer authorised to take Statutory Declarations

I am having trouble with the online application. Can I send in my logbook without completing this?

If you do not apply online, but send your logbook to our office, your application will not be processed. The Nautical Institute will return your documents to the address in the logbook via standard post (if no courier payment is received) and will not accept any responsibility for documents lost in the post.

Please visit the [Alexis Platform](#) website to complete your online application before sending your documents to us for processing. You will already have an account on our system if you match any of the following criteria:

- You have previously applied to The Nautical Institute for a DP certificate
- You took your Basic/Induction course in 2012 or after

Please note that if you applied previously using the online application system on the [nautinst.org](#) website that your login details have changed. Your username would now be the email address you registered with us when you created your online account. If you do not know your login details, please contact the DP department dp@nautinst.org and provide the following information.

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Personal email address
- Certificate number
- Certificate issue date
- Name of Familiarisation Vessel

Please note that the email address must be a personal one and not that of a ship or a company.

The [Old Offshore Scheme – Online Application Guide](#) is available on our website. It contains step by step instructions to assist you in completing your online application before sending your physical documents to us via post/courier for processing. If after reading this guide, you are still experiencing problems, please contact the DP department by email dp@nautinst.org or by telephone, Tuesdays and Thursdays only on +44(0)20 7928 1351, providing as much detail as possible (including screenshots, where necessary) about the problem you are experiencing.

I have registered online but have not received my login details. What should I do?

Please do not register more than once on the system. If you have not received your login details please contact the [DP department](#) for assistance.

I do not know my customer number. How can I find it?

Our Alexis Platform website, which was launched in January 2015, does not use customer numbers as your login username. Your username is the email address you registered with us when you created your online account.

If you have a Nautical Institute DP certificate; have previously applied for a DP certificate; took your Basic/Induction course for the first time in 2012 or after, your details will already be on our system. Please contact the [DP department](#) for your login details as this will then avoid duplicate accounts being setup, which can delay your application.

You will need to provide the following information

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Personal email address
- Certificate number
- Certificate issue date
- Name of Familiarisation Vessel

Please note that the email address must be a personal one and not that of a ship or a company.

DPOs holding a Norwegian Maritime Directorate (NMD) certificate and not meeting any of the criteria above will not be registered on our system. The Nautical Institute is currently developing a dedicated application path to allow NMD DP certificate holders to apply online before sending their documents to us to convert their certificates to an NI DP certificate. We do not yet have a completion date for this work, so please check the Alexis Platform website regularly for updates.

I cannot find the vessel to select on the online application. What should I do?

If the vessel is not showing on the online application, please email a copy of the vessel's classification certificate to dp@nautinst.org where it can be checked and then added to the system.

My payment is showing as unsuccessful. Why is this?

There may be a number of reasons for a payment showing as unsuccessful on the website. Please check the [Credit Card Payment Checklist](#) for more help.

I have not received my PDF form. What should I do?

The Checklist is no longer emailed out to applicants and instead you are required to print this off directly from your 'My Account' Home page. Once the payment has been made, confirmation of this will show at the bottom of the page under the heading of 'Payments'. A new Heading will also be showing above the communication notes called 'Downloads' This link will open the PDF Checklist document to be printed and completed before being added to your documents to send into the NI offices for processing.

I cannot complete the online application. What should I do?

Please read the [Old Offshore Scheme – Online Application Guide](#), which is available on our website. If after reading the guide you are still experiencing problems completing the online application, please contact the [DP department](#).

I have not received my certificate and logbook. What should I do?

Once we have despatched your documents, you will receive an automated email from us informing you of this.

Please provide a telephone number and email address, where you can be easily reached, as our couriers will contact you if they are experiencing problems delivering your documents to your designated address. They will also send an email to you with your tracking number.

I have lost my certificate/logbook. How do I obtain replacements?

If you have lost your logbook/certificate, you are required to provide a police report AND affidavit to The Nautical Institute and /or training centre as per conditions below.

Older Style A6 size Blue/Green Logbooks (issued up to 2012)

If you have not yet been issued with a DP certificate; Please contact the training centre where your original DP logbook was issued. In most cases this would be the training centre where you attended the Basic course. Please click [here](#) for a current list of accredited DP training centres and their contact details.

If you have been issued with a DP certificate (certified DPOs); please complete the [application form](#) and [credit card form](#) and send them via fax or post to The Nautical Institute.

Black A5 size Logbooks (issued from 2013)

ALL applications for the replacement of Black logbooks must be sent to The Nautical Institute, whether or not you have been issued with a DP certificate.

ALL applications for replacements of stolen or lost documents must be accompanied by a police incident report and affidavit.

Prices for replacement documents can be found on the application and credit card forms located in [Forms and Documents](#) in the **DP Help Page** Offshore section.

I am the Master applying for my DP certificate. Can I sign Sections B, C, E and F myself?

It is acceptable for you as the Master applying for your certificate to sign-off Sections B (*Seagoing DP Familiarisation*) and E (*DP Watchkeeping Experience*) yourself as your DP sea time record will be verified by your employer in the [DP sea time confirmation letter](#). However, Sections C (*Seagoing Familiarisation Log*) and F (*Suitability of officer to undertake full watchkeeping responsibility on board a DP vessel*) cannot be self-signed.

Blue Logbook

Section C: If there is no suitable person to sign the tasks and the declaration in section C, then you may sign them yourself, however, you must provide an additional [Seagoing Familiarisation Declaration](#) signed by one of the following authorised signatories:

- Relief Master on board
- Certified DPO on board
- Competent Officer

Section F: The certified DPO should write their certificate number next to their name. Should a certified DPO not be available on board, one of the following personnel who is knowledgeable about your capabilities as a DPO is also authorised to sign the form:

- Relief Master on board
- A Marine Superintendent, Operations Manager or equivalent

Black Logbook

Section C: If you are the Master applying for your DP certificate then you should only sign the DP Familiarisation log (*pages 21-27 only*) yourself if no other suitable person is available (i.e., if you are the Master and trainee DPO, and there is no other DPO on board that can verify your training).

In this case the **Competent Officer's sign off** on page 28 of your logbook must be completed by one of the following authorised personnel who knows your capabilities as a DPO:

- Relief Master on board
- Certified DPO on board
- Competent Officer

(Please note that the certified DPO is required to hold a valid DP certificate to be able to sign this section).

A letter of explanation should also be provided by the authorised signatory and included with your documents when you apply to us for your DP certificate.

Section F: If you are the Master applying for your DP certificate then you cannot sign this form yourself. Instead you should have it signed by one of the following authorised personnel who is fully aware of your capabilities as a DPO:

- The vessel's Relief Master
- An Operations Manager (or equivalent)

Please note that if the Relief Master or Operations Manager signing the Section F do not hold a DP certificate they should only sign this after obtaining feedback from the certified DPO on board.

Why has the signature on my PDF Checklist form been queried?

The PDF checklist must be signed by the applicant. The applicant is the person whose name appears on page one of this document.

The page of the PDF application form that needs to be signed is a declaration verifying that the information provided by the applicant is true and correct. It is therefore important that we have the correct original signature of the applicant on this document that can be matched with the signature on his/her Section F form and Certificate of Competency, where applicable.

How can I obtain Junior or Senior DPO Certification?

The Nautical Institute does not have a definition for different levels of DPO. We consider a "Trainee DPO" to be a person who is working toward the award of a DPO certificate and a DPO as someone who holds a valid DPO certificate.

[IMCA](#) has produced definitions for Trainee, Junior and Senior DPO in its document *M117 "The Training and Experience of Key DP Personnel"*. These are intended as general guidance and are not necessarily adopted by companies. Companies assign levels of DPO status to suit their own operational needs and charter requirements.

My logbook is full. How do I obtain a new one?

If you have not yet been issued with a DP certificate:

Older style A6 size Blue/Green Logbooks (issued up to 2012) - Please note that you can use the additional DP watchkeeping pages 16-21 even if you have not yet been issued with a DP certificate. If your logbook is full, contact the training centre that issued your original logbook to obtain a new one. In most cases this will be where you attended the Basic course. You will be required to show your completed logbook in order to purchase a new one.

A5 size Black Logbooks (issued from 2013) – Contact The Nautical Institute. You will be required to show your completed logbook in order to purchase a new one.

For certified DPOs who have been with a Full/Unlimited NI DP certificate, please obtain a Dynamic Positioning Logbook from [IMCA](#) to continue logging your DP time.

Please note that we can only accept DP time recorded in IMCA logbooks for the following:

- Revalidation of DP certificates
- Upgrading from a Limited to Full/Unlimited DP certificate for owners of the [NI blue/green](#) logbooks only.

If you have a Limited DP certificate and own an NI black logbook as your sole logbook (or as an additional logbook), you need to record your DP time in your NI logbook for it to be accepted by The Nautical Institute for upgrade purposes.

Can I replace my old logbook with a new style one?

If you own an old style Blue/Green logbook, you cannot replace it with the newer Black logbooks, which were issued between 1st January 2013 and 31 December 2014 under the Old Offshore Scheme. Grey logbooks are only available to DPOs who are on the New Offshore scheme and burgundy logbooks are only available to those on the Shuttle Tanker scheme; both these schemes started in 2015.

I have an old card certificate. Can I change it to a new credit card size certificate?

Yes. If you would like to replace your old card certificate with a new plastic credit card size certificate you can order a replacement by completing the [DP application and credit card forms](#) available on our website. The additional charges listed on the forms are applicable for all replacement certificates. Please note that the new certificate will contain the same information as on the current one and will not alter any of the dates. In order to replace your certificate please upload a passport standard photograph onto your Alexis Platform account and send the following documents into our office:

- Copy of passport details page
- Original DP certificate
- DP application form
- Credit card form

The new printed certificate will be sent out via courier and the old certificate will be retained by The Nautical Institute.

How can I obtain an IMCA DP logbook?

The Nautical Institute does not sell IMCA logbooks. These can be obtained directly from [IMCA](#).

IMCA - International Marine Contractors Association
52 Grosvenor Gardens
London
SW1W 0AU
United Kingdom

Tel: +44(0)20 7824 5520

Email: imca@imca-int.com

Website: <http://www.imca-int.com>

How do I upgrade my Limited certificate?

Please read the requirements on how to upgrade your Limited DP certificate in the document titled [DP Section F Upgrade Guidance](#). Once you have applied online for your upgrade, please post the following items to The Nautical Institute for processing:

- DP Logbook
- PDF Checklist (Completed, signed and dated)

- Completed Section F Upgrade form
- [Company DP sea time confirmation letter](#)
- Original Limited certificate

Please enclose only original documents as photocopies will not be accepted and will delay your application.

How long is my certificate valid for?

The Nautical Institute often receives enquiries about the validity of the DP certificate as it is not specified on the printed certificate. There were some concerns about this issue due to the high demand for DP Operators in the industry, which is enticing many seafarers to go back to sea to operate a DP system. Many of them have not been operating DP equipment for years and hence, were advised to retake the Advanced course at one of Training Centres accredited by The Nautical Institute and complete 180 DP days at sea if applicable.

Considering this and aiming for the best practices and Continuing Professional Development, The Nautical Institute approved a process to revalidate DP certificates. Since January 2012, the Institute has been printing a validity date of 5 years from the certificate date issued on the certificates in preparation for the revalidation programme.

Revalidation

The revalidation of DP certificates started on 1 January 2015 and are being phased in as below:

2015: Revalidation of DP certificates issued from 1984 to 2002, 2009 and 2010

2016: Revalidation of certificates issued from 2003 to 2004 and 2011

2017: Revalidation of certificates issued from 2005 to 2006 and 2012

2018: Revalidation of certificates issued from 2007 to 2008 and 2013

2019: Revalidation of certificates issued in 2014 and so on

DPOs should apply and send their documents into our office for processing the same month as their original certificate was issued.

Based on STCW standards, The Nautical Institute will consider any of the following for the revalidation:

- If more than 150 days DP sea service is done within a period of 5 years, then the person needs to resend the documents to The Nautical Institute to replace the certificate with a new validity date.
- If the DPO has less than 150 days of DP sea service within the preceding 5 years, then the person needs to do an Advanced course and a minimum of 30 days DP sea service.
- If no DP sea service is obtained within the period of the last 5 years, then the person would have to undertake an Advanced course and complete a minimum of 60 days DP sea time on a DP classed vessel to have his/her certificate re-validated.
- If the DP professional has been engaged in an occupation The Nautical Institute considers being equivalent to the sea service (i.e. DP lecturer/instructor, DP surveyor, DP consultant, DP auditor, DP superintendent, DP supervisor), it will be required for revalidation of his/her DP certificate a minimum of 150 days in the activity claimed of the preceding 5 years.

The entries to prove the activity shall be done in a Nautical Institute or IMCA logbook and signed by the accredited training centre (in case of DP lecturer); vessel's operations manager (in case of DP superintendent, DP consultant or DP supervisor) where the person has performed the work/activity or by The Nautical Institute's authorised person (in case of DP auditor).

If the person decides to apply with a mix of experience that involves criterion 'd' and criterion 'a' or 'b', then the sea time obtained during the last 5 years shall be counted towards the required

cumulative 150 days. Example: 15 days as a DP lecturer and 15 days DP sea service, totalling the minimum 30 days.

Please note that there is separate FAQs and guidance for the revalidation process. Please click on the following link: <http://www.nialexisplatform.org/dp-help-page/revalidation/> for further information.

Please also read the document entitled *DP Training & Certification Scheme*, which is also available in the Revalidation section on our website via the following link <http://www.nialexisplatform.org/dp-help-page/revalidation/scheme-details/>.

We hope you have found the FAQs useful, however, if you have not found the answer to your question(s) in this document or any of our other recommended documentation, please contact the DP department for assistance. Please note that the department only take calls on the days specified below.



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