Regulations on the Seafarer's Identity Cards and other identity documents on ships and mobile offshore units (Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations) and amendments to Regulations of 22 December 2011 No. 1523 on qualifications and certificates for seafarers

Legal basis: Laid down by the Norwegian Maritime Authority on 13 May 2026 pursuant to the Act of 16 February 2007 No. 9 relating to Ship Safety and Security (Ship Safety and Security Act) sections 2, 6 and 39 third paragraph (f) and (g), cf. Formal Delegation of 16 February 2007 No. 171 and Formal Delegation of 31 May 2007 No. 590.

Section 1.
Scope of application

These Regulations apply to:

a. the right of Norwegian nationals to a Norwegian seafarer's identity card (Seafarer's Identity Card);
b. Norwegian sea service books issued pursuant to the Regulations of 25 November 1988 No. 940 on supervision of maritime service (sea service book);
c. requirements for identity documents for any person working on board a Norwegian ship or mobile offshore unit.

Section 2.
Entitlement to a Seafarer's Identity Card

A Norwegian national who meets the requirements set out in these Regulations is entitled, upon application, to be issued with a Seafarer's Identity Card.

Section 3.
Competent authority, etc.

The Norwegian Maritime Authority is the competent authority for issuing Seafarer's Identity Cards and shall determine the form and content of the Seafarer's Identity Card.

The appearance or content of the Seafarer's Identity Card shall not be altered by any person other than the Norwegian Maritime Authority.

Section 4.
Application for a Seafarer's Identity Card

A Norwegian national working on board a ship or mobile offshore unit may be issued with a Seafarer's Identity Card upon application in the Norwegian Maritime Authority's application system.

The applicant shall provide the following information in the application system:

a. the applicant's registered personal details in the National Population Register, including full name, nationality, date of birth, national identity number and place of birth. The information shall correspond to the personal details in the applicant's passport or national identity card valid for travel;
b. the applicant's most recently issued valid machine-readable passport or national identity card valid for travel shall be used for identification. An image or copy of the pages showing the facial photograph, signature and height shall be uploaded;
c. a photograph of the applicant meeting the requirements for facial images in passports and national identity cards valid for travel shall be uploaded. The photograph shall comply with ICAO standards for quality, including requirements relating to background, lighting and facial expression. The entire face shall be visible. Both eyes, eyebrows and ears shall be visible. Glasses and headgear shall not be worn. For religious or other special reasons, such as illness, headgear may be worn in the photograph where it is reasonable to assume that similar headgear will be used during future identity checks. The headgear shall not cover any part of the face or more of the head than necessary;
d. an image of the applicant's signature shall be uploaded. The signature shall correspond as closely as possible to the signature in the applicant's passport or national identity card

valid for travel and be of sufficient quality to be easily legible on the Seafarer's Identity Card;

e. a self-declaration confirming that the information provided in the application is correct and that the applicant is working on board a vessel.

Section 5.
Validity period for Seafarer's Identity Card

A Seafarer's Identity Card is valid for five years from the date of issue.

Section 6.
Safekeeping and loss of Seafarer's Identity Card and sea service book

The Seafarer's Identity Card and the sea service book shall be kept securely by the holder. The holder shall immediately report the loss of a Seafarer's Identity Card or the sea service book to the Norwegian Maritime Authority.

A Seafarer's Identity Card reported as lost may not be used again.

Section 7.
Duplicate Seafarer's Identity Card

An application for a duplicate Seafarer's Identity Card in the event of loss shall be submitted through the Norwegian Maritime Authority's application system. A duplicate may only be issued to replace a valid Seafarer's Identity Card that has been reported lost and shall have the same expiry date as the original card.

No duplicate shall be issued to replace a lost sea service book.

Section 8.
Renewal of Seafarer's Identity Card, etc.

An application for renewal of a Seafarer's Identity Card shall follow the application procedure set out in section 4. The same applies where the information forming the basis for the most recently issued Seafarer's Identity Card or sea service book was incorrect or is no longer correct.

At the time of application, one of the following conditions shall be met in respect of the applicant's most recently issued Seafarer's Identity Card or sea service book:

a. the document has expired;
b. the document has less than six months remaining until expiry;
c. the document has been reported lost to the Norwegian Maritime Authority;
d. the document has been declared invalid to the Norwegian Maritime Authority because the information forming the basis for the issuance of the Seafarer's Identity Card or sea service book was not, or is no longer, correct.

Section 9.
Revocation of a Seafarer's Identity Card

A Seafarer's Identity Card may be revoked where:

a. the information forming the basis for the issuance of the document was not, or is no longer, correct;
b. the appearance or content of the document has been altered;
c. the document is damaged, worn or otherwise unsuitable as proof of identity;
d. the document has come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

The card shall be surrendered to the Norwegian Maritime Authority when a decision to revoke the Seafarer's Identity Card has been made pursuant to the first paragraph.

Section 10.
Criminal liability

The applicant is subject to criminal liability pursuant to the Penal Code, section 202 on identity misuse, section 221 on false statement and section 361 on document forgery.

Section 11.
Verification of identity documents by the company on Norwegian vessels

The company shall ensure that the identity of any person working on board a Norwegian vessel is adequately documented and verified before joining the vessel.

Verification shall be carried out by requiring presentation of a valid identity document, which may include:

a. a Seafarer's Identity Card;
b. a sea service book;
c. a foreign identity document compliant with ILO Convention No. 108 concerning Seafarers' Identity Documents or ILO Convention No. 185 concerning Seafarers' Identity Documents;
d. a passport, national identity card valid for travel or equivalent identity document valid for travel.

Section 12.
Exemptions

The Norwegian Maritime Authority may, in special cases, grant exemptions from the requirements of section 4 upon written application.

Where the applicant does not meet the condition in section 4 first paragraph of working on board a vessel, a specific need for a Seafarer's Identity Card shall be documented before an exemption may be granted.

Section 13.
Transitional provision for sea service book

A sea service book issued pursuant to the Regulations of 25 November 1988 No. 940 on supervision of maritime service may be used for as long as it remains valid.

Section 14.
Entry into force

These Regulations shall enter into force on 19 May 2026.

From the same date, Regulations of 25 November 1988 No. 940 on supervision of maritime service are repealed.