Sjøfartsdirektoratet
Norwegian Maritime Authority

Circular - Series R

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New Regulations on 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

I. General

1. Introduction

The Norwegian Maritime Authority introduces the Seafarer's Identity Card as a new identity document for Norwegian seafarers. Applications may be submitted from 19 May 2026.

The Seafarer's Identity Card replaces the traditional sea service book and will serve as an identity document for Norwegian seafarers working on Norwegian and foreign ships, as well as mobile offshore units. Like the former sea service book, the card is intended to fulfil Norway's international obligations. Norway has ratified ILO Convention No. 108 concerning seafarers' identity documents and is therefore required to provide an identity document to Norwegian seafarers.

The introduction of the Seafarer's Identity Card entails the following regulatory changes:

- new Regulations on Seafarer's Identity Cards and other identity documents on ships and mobile offshore units (Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations)
- amendments to the Regulations on qualifications and certificates for seafarers (Qualifications Regulations)[1]
- repeal of the Regulations on supervision of maritime service[2]

The Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations replace the provisions on sea service books previously contained in the Regulations on supervision of maritime service, which are repealed upon entry into force of these Regulations. Rules relating to seagoing service are continued in adjusted form in the Qualifications Regulations. Seagoing service is not recorded in the Seafarer's Identity Card itself, but existing arrangements for recording such service are maintained. The Seafarer's Identity Card is not an official ID document pursuant to the Act on national identity cards. However, it may be used for identification and to document that the holder is employed on board a vessel, thereby facilitating shore leave and work-related travel abroad.

2. Consultation process and comments received

The proposed regulatory amendments were circulated for review from 4 November 2025 to 16 December 2025. The consultation period was shortened to enable the regulations to be adopted within a short period of time.

The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) received nine consultation responses, of which four contained no comments and two contained minor remarks. Three of the responses are summarised below. The majority expressed support for the introduction of the Seafarer's Identity Card.

[1] Regulations of 22 December 2011 No. 1523 on qualifications and certificates for seafarers
[2] Regulations of 25 November 1988 No. 940 on supervision of maritime service

The Norwegian Seafarers' Union supported the modernisation of seafarers' identity documents but expressed concerns that the solution is not aligned with ILO Convention No. 185 and may result in reduced international recognition. Further concerns were raised regarding access to identity documents for foreign seafarers, the need for international recognition of the Seafarer's Identity Card, and the view that the costs should not be borne by seafarers. The NMA considers it sufficient that the Seafarer's Identity Card complies with the requirements of ILO Convention No. 108, and that this ensures the necessary level of international recognition. Foreign seafarers have not previously been entitled to Norwegian identity documents, and seagoing service will continue to be documented through company systems in accordance with existing arrangements. Furthermore, information measures have been developed to ensure international acceptance, and the fee will normally be paid by the applicants, although the company may cover the cost.

The Norwegian Bar Association considers that the assessment of data protection implications does not adequately comply with the requirements set out in the Instructions for Official Studies and Reports, inter alia because the proposal entails the processing of sensitive personal data, such as biometric data, the use of digital solutions and the collection of passport copies through an external service provider. Interference with the right to privacy must be assessed in light of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and section 102 of the Norwegian Constitution. It must also be demonstrated that the measures are necessary and proportionate. The NMA acknowledges that the assessment of privacy implications could have been more detailed, but considers it sufficient and in compliance with applicable regulations and the Instructions for Official Studies and Reports.

The Norwegian Shipowners' Association also submitted comments and supports the introduction of the Seafarer's Identity Card, but emphasises the need for appropriate transitional arrangements, clear information and solutions that ensure the documentation of seagoing service. Emphasis is placed on practical challenges in international processes and the risk of loss of seagoing service information, making clear communication and the adaptation of new procedures necessary. The NMA has prepared information for relevant stakeholders and provides accompanying documentation with the Seafarer's Identity Card. With regard to seagoing service, companies remain responsible for retaining records of such service and must establish solutions for recording it in accordance with the requirements set out in the Qualifications Regulations, where such solutions are not already in place.

All consultation comments have been addressed in the consultation matrix, which is attached to this Circular (available in Norwegian only).

3. Background – the Seafarer's Identity Card as a replacement for the sea service book

The Seafarer's Identity Card is an updated version of the identity document for Norwegian seafarers and constitutes a modern, security-compliant scheme involving digitalisation and the use of new security technologies.

The Seafarer's Identity Card is intended for identification and verification of employment on board and will facilitate shore leave and international travel for Norwegian seafarers. The card will be available in both digital and physical formats and will better facilitate shore leave and transit in countries that have ratified ILO Convention No. 185.

The application process is fully digital and can be completed without physical attendance via login with BankID in the "My Page for seafarers" portal. A physical card remains necessary, as international standards for digital seafarer identity documents do not yet exist.

The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) has previously issued sea service books to Norwegian seafarers on behalf of the NMA upon application submitted via NAV or a Norwegian foreign

service mission. In addition, both NAV and Norwegian foreign service missions have issued records of service to foreign seafarers.

The NMA will no longer issue records of service. The scheme is outdated and will be replaced by the NMA's "My Page for qualifications" portal and other solutions for recording seagoing service.

Norwegian seafarers are entitled to be issued with a Seafarer's Identity Card upon application, but there is no obligation to hold one. Nevertheless, all persons working on board Norwegian vessels must carry valid identification, cf. section 39 second paragraph of the Ship Safety and Security Act. This requirement applies regardless of nationality and may be fulfilled by a sea service book, a Seafarer's Identity Card, a passport or another identity document.

The issuance, production and distribution of Seafarer's Identity Cards are carried out by an external service provider. The card will be produced in plastic. In addition, the card will be available in a mobile application and web browser, although older mobile phones may have limited support for the digital version due to technical limitations in the iOS and Android operating systems.

A sea service book issued pursuant to the Regulations on supervision of maritime service may be used for as long as it remains valid. However, sea service books will not be issued after the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations have entered into force.

II. Further details on the Regulations and the amendments

1. Introduction

As the established sea service book is now being replaced by the Seafarer's Identity Card, amendments to the related regulatory framework have been necessary. As stated in the introduction, this entails that the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations provide that amendments are made to the Regulations on qualifications and certificates for seafarers, and that the existing Regulations on supervision of maritime service are repealed.

Below follows a description of the introduction of the Seafarer's Identity Card as a new identity document for Norwegian seafarers, including provisions on the legal basis, scope, application process, processing of personal data and fees.

2. The Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations

2.1. Legal basis and scope

The Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations are based on section 2 of the Ship Safety and Security Act concerning the substantive scope of the Act, section 6 concerning the
general duties of the company, section 39 third paragraph (f) concerning inspection of persons and objects on board the ship or about to board the ship, and section 39 third paragraph (g) concerning the issuance and form of identification documents.

The substantive scope of the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations is specified in section 1, in that the provisions relating to
the Seafarer's Identity Card and the sea service book apply to Norwegian nationals working on board ships and mobile
offshore units, and that section 11 of the Regulations concerning the company's control of identity documents applies to all persons working on board Norwegian vessels.

2.2. Application process for the Seafarer's Identity Card

Pursuant to section 3 of the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations, the Norwegian Maritime Authority is responsible for receiving applications, processing them and issuing Seafarer's Identity Cards through its applications system and digital case processing system, referred to as APS. An external service provider

will produce and dispatch the cards. The expected annual number of Seafarer's Identity Cards issued is between 3,000 and 5,000. This estimate is based on the number of sea service books issued annually.

Norwegian seafarers may be issued with a Seafarer's Identity Card upon application. This applies regardless of whether the seafarers are working on Norwegian or foreign vessels and constitutes a continuation of the right to be issued with a sea service book. Both employees and self-employed contractors are covered by the right to be issued with a Seafarer's Identity Card.

When applying for a Seafarer's Identity Card, the applicant must provide proof of identity using a passport or a Norwegian national identity card valid for travel. Norwegian national identity card *not* valid for travel cannot be used for this purpose, as it is not equivalent to a passport. Furthermore, persons other than Norwegian nationals may hold such cards, cf. section 2A-1 of the Regulations on passports and national identity cards, and a Norwegian Seafarer's Identity Card is only to be issued to Norwegian nationals. Other national identity cards are also not accepted for the issuance of a Seafarer's Identity Card.

The application process is to be fully digital. A Seafarer's Identity Card may only be applied for by applicants who log into the "My Page for seafarers" portal using BankID and who have a Norwegian national identity number and Norwegian citizenship. This information is retrieved automatically from the National Population Register upon login. For all other login methods (national identity number without Norwegian citizenship, D number or email), the Seafarer's Identity Card functionality will not be visible, and these users will therefore not see the application option in the menu. This is intended to avoid uncertainty as to who may apply for a Seafarer's Identity Card.

Within APS, electronic communication shall be used for the dispatch of covering letters and any supplementary information in connection with decisions to approve, refuse or revoke a Seafarer's Identity Card. The communication shall be sent digitally to the applicant via electronic communication. If the individual has opted out of receiving digital mail, the documentation will be sent by ordinary postal service.

It is not possible to order a Seafarer's Identity Card on an expedited basis. Provision will, however, be made for a digital display of the Seafarer's Identity Card on a mobile device. This solution may be accepted by countries that recognise electronic solutions for Seafarer's Identity Cards. The digital solution may therefore assist Norwegian seafarers who have misplaced their physical card without reporting it as lost, where the applicant expects to recover the card within a short period of time. The mobile solution also provides the advantage that the digital version of the Seafarer's Identity Card will be made available to the applicant as soon as the NMA has issued the card in APS.

2.3. Personal Data Act and data processor agreement

Pursuant to the Personal Data Act, the supplier of the Seafarer's Identity Card acts as a data processor for information received from the NMA in its capacity as data controller. The Personal Data Act consists of national provisions and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR requires the NMA, as a data controller, to implement appropriate measures, both technical and organisational, to "ensure and to be able to demonstrate" that personal data is processed in compliance with the applicable regulations.

The NMA has entered into a data processing agreement with the selected supplier of the Seafarer's Identity Card in accordance with the Norwegian Government Agency for Financial Management (DFØ) standard agreement for data processing.

2.4. Fees for Seafarer's Identity Cards and duplicate cards

With the introduction of the Seafarer's Identity Card in APS, the NMA is introducing cost-based fees. This is in line with the fee structure applicable to other documents issued pursuant to the Regulations on fees

for the issue of certificates and endorsements to maritime personnel and boating licences to masters, etc. (Fees Regulations).

Fees for Seafarer's Identity Cards are set out in section 10 of the Fees Regulations. The fee for a Seafarer's Identity Card has been set at NOK 700, while the fee for a duplicate card has been set at NOK 350.

3. Amendments to the Qualifications Regulations

The legal basis for the amendments to the Qualifications Regulations is found in section 6 and section 16 second paragraph (b) of the Ship Safety and Security Act. The Qualifications Regulations apply only to Norwegian vessels, but both Norwegian and foreign seafarers are covered by the Regulations.

To ensure a comprehensive regulatory framework for seagoing service, provisions on seagoing service have been transferred from the Regulations on supervision of maritime service to the Qualifications Regulations, in a slightly revised form, as neither the sea service book nor records of service will be issued under the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations.

The company's general duties under section 6 of the Ship Safety and Security Act are further specified in the Qualifications Regulations section 16 on sea service, calculation and documentation, as well as in section 81 on documentation of service.

The amendments to the Qualifications Regulations are intended to safeguard seafarers' right to registration and retention of seagoing service, as the possibility of recording seagoing service in the sea service book and records of service will no longer be available. The ILO Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), Standard A2.1 paragraph 1, provides that member States shall adopt laws or regulations requiring that seafarers' employment records are documented on board ships flying their flag. By ratifying the MLC, Norway has undertaken to ensure that seafarers on Norwegian ships are provided with written confirmation of their seagoing service on board.

The regulatory framework for recording seagoing service will apply equally to Norwegian nationals and foreign nationals employed on Norwegian vessels. In connection with the transition to the Seafarer's Identity Card, companies must record seafarers' seagoing service using solutions other than the sea service book and records of service, as explained in the comments to section 16 second paragraph of the Qualifications Regulations below. It already follows from the Qualifications Regulations that the company must ensure that seagoing service is recorded for seafarers on its vessels.

The records of service issued pursuant to the now repealed Regulations on supervision of maritime service are not identity documents and have no period of validity. The company, or a person authorised by the company, may register seagoing service in the records of service until they are completed, but no records of service will be issued under the Qualifications Regulations. Furthermore, once the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations have entered into force, neither NAV nor Norwegian foreign service missions will register seagoing service in the records of service.

In addition, section 5 of the Qualifications Regulations provides that the company shall ensure that each person serving on board holds valid certificates, endorsements and qualifications and have received supplementary training, including refresher and updating training, and that the company shall have up-to-date documentation of seafarers' experience, training, medical fitness and language skills, which must be made available for inspection.

4. Comments on the provisions

4.1. The Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations

To section 1 on scope of application

These Regulations apply to the right of Norwegian nationals to a Norwegian seafarer's identity card, the regulation of the Norwegian sea service book issued pursuant to the Regulations on the supervision of maritime service, and the company's verification of identity documents on Norwegian vessels.

Subparagraph a on the right of Norwegian nationals to a Norwegian seafarer's identity card (Seafarer's Identity Card):
The Seafarer's Identity Card will be a right for Norwegian nationals who are employed on board Norwegian or foreign ships and mobile offshore units. The previous practice concerning the entitlement to a sea service book has also included Norwegian seafarers who are expected to commence service on board in the near future. This practice is continued in respect of entitlement to a Seafarer's Identity Card. Both employees and self-employed contractors are covered by the right to be issued with a Seafarer's Identity Card.

Subparagraph b on Norwegian sea service books issued pursuant to the Regulations of 25 November 1988 No. 940 on supervision of maritime service (sea service book):
A sea service book issued pursuant to the Regulations on supervision of maritime service may be used for as long as it remains valid. The validity period is five years from the date of issue.

Subparagraph c on requirements for identity documents for any person working on board a Norwegian ship or mobile offshore unit:
Any person working on board a Norwegian vessel must carry an identity document pursuant to section 39 second paragraph of the Ship Safety and Security Act. The company's compliance with this requirement is regulated in section 11 of the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations.

To section 2 on entitlement to a Seafarer's Identity Card
A Norwegian national who meets the requirements set out in these Regulations is entitled, upon application to the Norwegian Maritime Authority, to be issued with a Seafarer's Identity Card.

The Seafarer's Identity Card shall contain the following information:

- full name
- gender
- national identity number
- place of birth (country code)
- Norwegian citizenship
- facial photograph
- signature
- height
- document number
- period of validity (from–to)
- place and date of issue
- issuing authority
- a statement that the card is issued in accordance with ILO Convention No. 108
- a notice that a found card shall be returned to the Norwegian Maritime Authority
- QR code and information about verification page

The registered name in the National Population Register may be abbreviated where necessary due to space constraints. The card shall contain text in Norwegian and English.

Unlike the information on place of birth in the Seafarer's Book, the Seafarer's Identity Card shall display a three-letter code indicating the country in which the holder was born. Information on the country of birth is obtained from the National Population Register. If the country of birth is not registered in the National Population Register, or if the country no longer exists, the field for country of birth shall be marked "XXX". This corresponds to the solution used in Norwegian passports.

To section 3 on competent authority, etc.
The NMA is the competent authority for issuing Seafarer's Identity Cards and shall determine the form and content of the Seafarer's Identity Card.

The Seafarer's Identity Card is not subject to the same detailed content requirements as passports and national identity cards valid for travel, and foreign port States may require a passport and visa in addition to the Seafarer's Identity Card.

Biometric personal data in the form of facial photographs and signatures contained in the Seafarer's Identity Card shall only be used for verification or control of the cardholder's identity.

The appearance or content of the Seafarer's Identity Card shall not be altered by any person other than the Norwegian Maritime Authority. This includes providing the cardholder with information that it is prohibited to alter the appearance or content of the card. Any such alteration may constitute forgery and attempted misuse of the card. See also section 10.

To section 4 on application for a Seafarer's Identity Card
First paragraph:
A Norwegian seafarer may be issued with a Seafarer's Identity Card upon application. This applies regardless of whether the seafarer is employed on Norwegian or foreign vessel and constitutes a continuation of the right to be issued with a sea service book under the Regulations on supervision of maritime service.

Second paragraph:
When applying for a Seafarer's Identity Card, the applicant must provide proof of identity via the "My Page for seafarers" portal using a passport or a Norwegian national identity card valid for travel. This extension of acceptable identification methods compared with the current requirement for a passport follows naturally from the introduction of the Norwegian national identity card valid for travel, cf. the Regulations on passports and national identity cards.

Applications for a Seafarer's Identity Card in APS are automatically archived by the NMA once payment has been completed.

When the applicant identifies themselves using a passport, place of birth may be verified against the uploaded copy. This is not possible for the national identity card valid for travel, as place of birth is not included on the card. This information is therefore based on trust for identity card holders, which is considered acceptable in light of the self-declaration confirmed by the applicant, cf. subparagraph e.
Subparagraph b:
The applicant's most recently issued valid machine-readable passport or national identity card valid for travel shall be used for identification by uploading an image or copy of the pages containing the facial photograph, signature and height to "My Page for seafarers". This is because images of facial photographs and signatures are not suitable for other forms of registration, and because information on height is not obtained from the National Population Register.

Subparagraph c:
A photograph of the applicant meeting the requirements for facial images in passports and national identity cards shall be uploaded. Reference is made to the requirements for facial photographs set out in section 2-6 of the Regulations on passports and national identity cards. The photograph shall meet the minimum requirements for facial images established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Doc 9303. Further guidance will be provided during the application process.

Subparagraph d:
An image of the applicant's signature shall be uploaded. The signature shall resemble as closely as possible the signature in the applicant's passport or national identity card valid for travel. Exact

correspondence with the signature in the passport or national identity card is not required, as such a requirement could give rise to technical challenges.
The signature shall be of sufficient quality to be clearly legible on the Seafarer's Identity Card.

Subparagraph e:
Under the previous sea service book scheme, applicants were required to submit documentation confirming that they were working on board a vessel. As a result of the digital application process for the Seafarer's Identity Card, this documentation requirement has been replaced by a self-declaration confirmed by the applicant. The applicant must also confirm that the information provided in the application is correct.

As under the sea service book scheme, documentation from the company confirming imminent commencement of service on board is treated as equivalent to documentation of employment on board. This may be an
employment contract entered into even if the applicant has not yet commenced service on board, or confirmation from the company that an employment contract will be concluded in the near future. This practice is continued for the issuance of Seafarer's Identity Cards, and the self-declaration covers both applicants who are currently employed on board vessels and applicants who are expected to commence service on board in the near future.

To section 5 on validity period for Seafarer's Identity Card
A Seafarer's Identity Card shall be valid for five years from the date of issue. The validity period for the Norwegian national identity card is also five years. This facilitates the regular upgrading of Seafarer's Identity Cards, for example through the introduction of new security features.

To section 6 on safekeeping and loss of Seafarer's Identity Card and sea service book
First paragraph
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.

In the event of loss of a Seafarer's Identity Card, a report of loss must be submitted to the Norwegian Maritime Authority via "My Page for seafarers", which will register the card as invalid. A card is considered lost if it has been stolen or misplaced. Following this, the Seafarer's Identity Card will no longer be available electronically, and verification of the card's QR code or the designated verification page will show that the card is invalid.

Compared with the loss reporting procedure for sea service books, the APS loss reporting solution will be easier for the NMA to administer and will also reduce the administrative burden on the police. The same solution is used for the loss of personal certificates under the Qualifications Regulations.

Second paragraph
A Seafarer's Identity Card reported as lost may not be used again. This means that a new Seafarer's Identity Card must be applied for if the holder wishes to obtain a replacement card after the previous card has been reported lost. There has been no equivalent arrangement for sea service books under the repealed Regulations on supervision of maritime service, and no new arrangement for sea service books has been introduced here. A recovered sea service book may therefore continue to be used for as long as it remains valid.

To section 7 on duplicate Seafarer's Identity Card
First paragraph
Once the loss has been reported, the applicant may choose to apply for a duplicate Seafarer's Identity Card. An application for a duplicate Seafarer's Identity Card in the event of loss shall be submitted via "My Page for seafarers".

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. Applying for a duplicate card will be less expensive than applying for a new Seafarer's Identity Card.

Second paragraph
No duplicate sea service book is issued to replace a book, as the scheme for issuing sea service books ceases when the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations enter into force.

To section 8 on renewal of the Seafarer's Identity Card, etc.
First paragraph
This provision regulates the ordinary renewal of a Seafarer's Identity Card upon its expiry.

Furthermore, it establishes that a new application for a Seafarer's Identity Card must be submitted in the event of loss of a Seafarer's Identity Card or sea service book, provided that the applicant wishes to obtain a new Seafarer's Identity Card.

Thirdly, the provision regulates how applicants shall proceed when applying for a Seafarer's Identity Card because information forming the basis of the most recently issued Seafarer's Identity Card or sea service book was incorrect or is no longer correct. For example, information relating to name and gender on the Seafarer's Identity Card will no longer be correct following a change of name or legal gender. Applicants must also ensure that the information in the National Population Register is up to date before applying for a new Seafarer's Identity Card.

Second paragraph
At the time of application, one of the conditions set out in paragraphs (a) to (d) must be met for the applicant's most recently issued Seafarer's Identity Card or sea service book, for example where the document has expired.

To section 9 on revocation of the Seafarer's Identity Card
Revocation of a Seafarer's Identity Card means that the card will be registered as invalid once a decision on revocation has been made. Following this, the Seafarer's Identity Card will no longer be available electronically, and verification of the card's QR code or the designated verification page will show that the card is invalid.

To section 10 on criminal liability
Following the model set out in section 2-12 of the Passport and Identity Card Regulations, an informational provision concerning criminal liability has been included.

Applicants are informed of criminal liability pursuant to the Act of 20 May 2005 No. 28 relating to criminal penalties (Penal Code) section 202 on identity misuse, section 221 on false statement and section 361 on document forgery. For example, false information must not be provided to the NMA in connection with applications for a Seafarer's Identity Card, cf. sections 202 and 221 of the Penal Code, and issued Seafarer's Identity Cards must not be altered by the applicant.

To section 11 on verification of identity documents by the company on Norwegian vessels
First paragraph
There is no obligation to hold a Seafarer's Identity Card, but there is a requirement to carry an identity document pursuant to section 39 second paragraph of the Ship Safety and Security Act. 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.

Second paragraph

The second paragraph specifies that verification shall be carried out by requiring presentation of a valid Seafarer's Identity Card, sea service book, foreign identity document compliant with ILO Convention No. 108 or ILO Convention No. 185, passport, national identity card valid for travel, or equivalent identity document valid for travel. The term "equivalent identity document valid for travel" in subparagraph d includes immigrants' passports and refugee travel documents.

To section 12 on exemptions
First paragraph
In special cases, the Norwegian Maritime Authority may grant exemptions from requirements laid down in section 4 of the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations upon written application. Lack of Norwegian citizenship does not constitute such a special case that may justify an exemption.

Second paragraph
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.

The applicant must demonstrate that there is a particular need for a Seafarer's Identity Card. Under the current practice for issuing sea service books, exemptions have been granted to upper secondary school students undertaking on-board placements as part of education programmes on vessels abroad. In such cases, the need for a sea service book has been documented by confirmation from the company or the applicant's school. This practice is continued for the issuance of Seafarer's Identity Cards. It is not excluded that exemptions may also be granted in connection with work training involving work carried out on vessels abroad.

It should also be noted that the right to a Seafarer's Identity Card includes Norwegian seafarers who are expected to commence service on board in the near future, as explained in the commentary to section 1 (a) and section 4 second paragraph (e) above, meaning that there will be no need to apply for an exemption in such cases.

To section 13 on transitional provision period 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.

To section 14 on entry into force
First paragraph
These Regulations shall enter into force on 19 May 2026.

Second paragraph
From the same date, Regulations of 25 November 1988 No. 940 on supervision of maritime service are repealed. Neither sea service books nor records of service will be issued after 19 May 2026.

4.2. Regulations of 22 December 2011 No. 1523 on qualifications and certificates for seafarers

To section 16 second paragraph
The necessary linguistic amendments have been introduced to establish a general requirement for documentation of seagoing service by using the already established term "record of seagoing service". The term is widely recognised within the shipping industry. See information on seagoing service on the Norwegian Maritime Authority's website: Seagoing service – NMA.

The company may document seagoing service in the following ways:

1. Reporting seagoing service via the "My Page for qualifications" portal.
2. Using the NMA's API system to transfer information concerning seagoing service to the NMA.
3. Issuing record of seagoing service independently of the solutions referred to in points 1 and 2.

To section 16 eighth paragraph
Linguistic amendments have also been introduced here to establish a general requirement for documentation of seagoing service by using the already established term "record of seagoing service" in section 16 eighth paragraph, replacing "sea service book" and "records of service".

To section 81 first sentence
Linguistic amendments have been made to establish a general requirement for documentation of "service time" pursuant to sections 76 to 80 by using the already established term "record of seagoing service" in section 81, replacing "sea service book" and "approved records of service".

III. Administrative and financial implications

1. Issue of Seafarer's Identity Cards

A key issue in the development of the Seafarer's Identity Card has been how the issuance process should be organised. The chosen solution is a combination of in-house case processing and external card production, which overall is the most favourable arrangement. The production of Seafarer's Identity Cards, including personalisation, is carried out by an external provider, which is also responsible for packaging and dispatching the cards to applicants.

2. Consequences for the industry

2.1. Norwegian seafarers

The costs associated with the Seafarer's Identity Card are fully financed through fees. It is assumed that seafarers will submit applications themselves, and that the fee will be paid as part of the application process. The fee for a Seafarer's Identity Card is NOK 700, and the fee for a duplicate card is NOK 350. Companies may choose to cover the cost of the Seafarer's Identity Card for seafarers working on their vessels. If seafarers are required to pay for the card themselves, this may result in fewer individuals making use of their right to be issued with a Seafarer's Identity Card.

2.2 The companies

As sea service books and records of service will no longer be issued, companies operating Norwegian vessels that do not already use alternative systems must ensure that seagoing service is recorded. Apart from this, the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations and the amendments to the Qualifications Regulations do not entail financial implications for companies, unless they choose to cover the cost of Seafarer's Identity Cards for seafarers working on their vessels.

3. Consequences for the authorities

3.1 NAV

NAV will no longer receive applications for or issue sea service books and records of service once the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations have entered into force. NAV will also no longer record seagoing service in sea service books or records of service from that point onwards.

3.2 Norwegian foreign service missions

Norwegian foreign service missions will no longer receive applications for sea service books and records of service, nor issue records of service, once the Seafarer's Identity Card Regulations have entered into force. They will also no longer record seagoing service in sea service books or records of service from that point onwards.

3.3 Consequences for the Norwegian Maritime Authority

Sea service books were issued at 16 NAV offices in Norway and were followed up by the NMA through guidance, supervision and review of submitted documentation (including checks of issued sea service books and cancelled sea service books, etc.). In addition, the NMA packaged and dispatched sea service books to NAV offices upon request. The NMA also registered applications for sea service books received

from Norwegian foreign service missions before they were forwarded to selected NAV offices for processing. Furthermore, the NMA provided guidance and training on the sea service book scheme to Norwegian foreign service missions.

With the transition to the Seafarer's Identity Card, the above tasks will no longer apply. At the same time, the NMA will incur costs related to the development and maintenance of APS, case processing within APS, and any development of additional databases and systems.

Alf Tore Sørheim
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This document has been electronically approved and therefore does not contain handwritten signatures.

Attachments:

1. Regulations on 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
2. Consultation matrix