



AUSTRALASIAN
MARINE PILOTS INSTITUTE

Jobs and Skills Australia
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
GPO Box 9828
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

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Submission to Jobs and Skills Australia on the 2025 Core Skills Occupation List (CSOL)

The Australasian Marine Pilots Institute (AMPI) is the peak professional body representing marine pilots in Australia. AMPI is dedicated to advancing safety, standards, and professional development in pilotage, and works closely with regulators, industry, and international peers to promote best practice. AMPI membership encompasses the majority of practising pilots across Australia, with representation in all major ports.

Occupations of Interest

This submission addresses the following occupations from the Occupational Skills Classification of Australia (OSCA) 2024:

- 313432 Marine Pilot
- 313435 Ship's Master

Context – Separation of Marine Pilot from Ship's Master

Marine Pilot (313432) was only recently delineated as a distinct occupation in OSCA 2024, having previously been subsumed under Ship's Master (313435). While this is an important step in recognising the unique skills and role of marine pilots, it is important to note that at present there is no approved skills assessment authority for Marine Pilot.

AMPI is actively developing a fully accredited Professional Entrance Examination to provide a formal pathway for skills assessment. However, this process is not yet operational, and therefore Marine Pilot is not currently a practical occupation for inclusion on the CSOL.

By contrast, Ship's Master (313435) has an established skills assessment process through the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) Certificate of Recognition (CoR) process, which ensures equivalency and competency for international applicants holding foreign Certificates of Competency (CoC) (AMSA, 2024a).

Labour Market Evidence

Workforce Size and Structure

- Approximately 500 marine pilots are currently employed across Australian ports.
- Workforce attrition is stable at approximately 3% per annum, largely due to retirements or career progression.
- Replacement needs are generally met through the domestic skills pipeline, as most candidates already hold the required AMSA Master Unlimited CoC.
- Sponsorship of international applicants occurs only in exceptional circumstances; typically, where highly specialised experience is required (e.g. LNG terminals).

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirement for pilotage across Australian jurisdictions is the Master Unlimited Certificate of Competency (or equivalence), issued under the *Navigation Act 2012 (Cth)* and the *Marine Orders* made under it (*Navigation Act 2012 (Cth)* s 310; AMSA, 2024b). State and territory Pilotage Codes reinforce this standard (e.g. *NSW Marine Pilotage Code*; *QLD Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*).

Thus, there is a direct occupational linkage between Ship's Master (313435) and Marine Pilot (313432). A pilot must first be a Ship's Master.

Policy Position – CSOL Inclusion

Given the above:

1. Ship's Master (313435) should remain the only relevant maritime occupation for CSOL inclusion at this stage, as:
 - It has an established skills assessment process via AMSA (AMSA, 2024a).
 - It provides the recognised qualification pathway into pilotage roles.
2. Marine Pilot (313432) should not be included on the CSOL until a formal skills assessment process is operational. AMPI anticipates this will be addressed by its Professional Entrance Examination in the next 18-24 months.
3. CSOL recognition of Ship's Master will indirectly support pilotage recruitment needs, as all marine pilots must already hold this qualification.

Conclusion

AMPI recommends that 313432 Marine Pilot be deferred until such time as an accredited skills assessment process is established.

This approach aligns with industry practice, labour market demand, and regulatory requirements, while ensuring that the skilled migration system remains robust, transparent, and evidence-based.



References

- Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) (2024a) *Recognition of Certificates of Competency*. Available at: <https://www.amsa.gov.au/vessels-operators/seafarer-certification/recognition-certificates-competency>
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) (2024b) *Marine Orders and the Navigation Act 2012*. Available at: <https://www.amsa.gov.au/vessels-operators/regulations-and-standards/marine-orders>
- Navigation Act 2012 (Cth).
- Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 (Qld).
- Port Authority of NSW (2022) *NSW Marine Pilotage Code*.

Yours faithfully,

