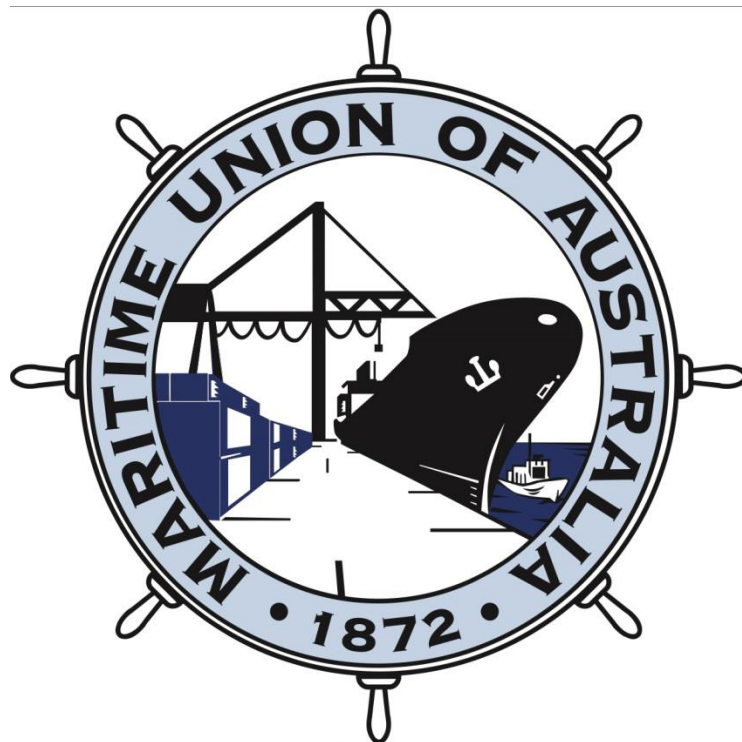


MUA Submission: JSA Draft Core Skills Occupations List (CSOL) for Consultation



31 May 2024

Submitted via email to CoreSkillsList@jobsandskills.gov.au



About the MUA

This submission has been prepared by Maritime Union of Australia (MUA). The MUA is a Division of the 120,000-member Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union and an affiliate of the 20-million-member International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).

The MUA represents approximately 13,000 workers in the shipping, offshore oil and gas, stevedoring, port services and commercial diving sectors of the Australian maritime industry.

Introduction

The MUA welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the draft core skills occupation list (CSOL). The MUA supports and recognise the role of JSA in defining Australia's skills needs based on evidence and tripartite consultation. At this stage, the MUA do not have any maritime occupations in our areas of coverage that should be included on this list. However, the MUA would like to put on record that we have serious misgivings about the use of the ANZSCO 2022 maritime classifications as the benchmark and for evidence gathering. We understand the ABS is undertaking a review of the ANZSCO and the MUA has made a submission through that process. Subject to the outcome and timing of the ABS review the MUA recommends that the next review of the CSOL list takes into consideration the shortcomings outlined below when relying on ANZSCO maritime classifications to determine Australia's skills needs.

ANZSCO 2022

Currently, ANZSCO captures MUA members under Marine Transport Professionals (2312) and Deck and Fishing Hands (8992) and Waterside Worker (891113). What these classifications fail to capture or reflect are the 'Ratings' occupations, such as Integrated Rating, Chief Integrated Rating, Able Seafarer – deck rating, Able seafarer – engine rating, General Purpose Hand or Marine Cook. These occupations are recognised in Marine Orders 70 and 73 made under the *Navigation Act 2012*.

Ratings is an occupational group that requires a VET Certificate Level III and IV qualification, representing ANZSCO skills level 3.

Seafaring occupations at ANZSCO skill levels 1-3 are primary occupations with internationally recognised standards of training, generally employed on larger ocean-going vessels. ANZSCO seafaring occupations at skill levels 4-5 are generally employed on smaller vessels operating inshore and in harbours and rivers.

The failure to capture marine occupations that are between skill level 1 and skill level 5 has presented and will continue to present (if not rectified in the ABS review) significant challenges for all aspects of government policy making that rely on ANZSCO classifications for statistical analysis. When assessing the skills needs of Australia for immigration or even for training and education purposes it is critical JSA recognises the correct occupational groupings and skill levels as used by the industry. If an occupation is not even recognised or correctly classified, it will prove difficult to produce the evidence required to explain the state of the labour market (for immigration and other purposes) and the skill needs of the maritime industry.

As stated above, for the draft CSOL, the MUA does not believe the marine occupations in our areas of coverage warrant being on the list. However, we do believe there are significant training needs, particularly for Integrated Ratings that require urgent action from the JSA and ISA to ensure there are enough seafarers entering the labour market in the near future.