



## THE SEAFARER'S DISCHARGE BOOK: WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

### What is a seafarer's discharge book?

The discharge book is a Canadian maritime booklet that takes the form of a small wallet containing the Canadian seafarer's information. Every Canadian seafarer must have one.

Before getting a discharge book, a seafarer must have a **Candidate document number (CDN)**. The CDN is issued by Transport Canada (TC) and is a seafarer's identification number.

Here is the simplified process to get a [CDN](#).

Once the seafarer has a CDN, they need to make an appointment with TC to get their **discharge book**. Proof of employment or enrollment in an approved training institution may be required. Find contact information for the Transport Canada-Marine Safety office in your area [here](#).

The discharge book contains the seafarer's personal information and his CDN. The discharge book is used to record details of sea time. It is not a passport, nor a travel document.

Immigrants wishing to have their foreign certificates recognized and wishing to work in Canada in navigation or marine engineering must have a discharge book. They must therefore be Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

The discharge book:



First page of the discharge book – Seafarer's identification:



Example of registered service at sea of the discharge book:



Stay tuned: the next regulatory column will focus on the various service time records at sea and the responsibilities of all parties involved!

For any additional information, please contact your local Transport Canada office.

For more information on the seafarer's discharge book, please click here: [Discharge book](#).

This information is provided to you free of charge with the collaboration of:



Transport Canada

Transport Canada