

Not to be communicated to
anyone outside HM Service
without authority

DCI RN 92-102

1995



Defence Council Instructions

Royal Navy

**DCIs are automatically
cancelled after one year**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
21 April 1995

Background

1. The announcement in 1990 that women were to serve in HM Ships led to a comprehensive review of uniform and working clothing worn by female personnel to identify requirements for redesigned and new design garments. Following trials of selected styles and receipt of user opinion, a new but still traditional design of mess dress emerged, which was approved by DWRNS in April 1993. The dress was subsequently endorsed by the Navy Department Clothing Committee and received Board and Palace approval. It has been issued to new entry female officers at BRNC Dartmouth since May 1993.

Design

2. The style of the new mess dress is based on that worn by male Officers but tailored for the female form. It comprises a blue barathea mess dress jacket, full length blue barathea skirt with centre back vent, blue barathea trousers (for wear afloat), collar attached evening shirt with marcella front, collar and cuffs, black bow tie and cummerbund. Although the stiff fronted evening shirt and separate wing collar is obligatory for certain male Officers and appointments, it

is unsuitable for wear by women. The marcella evening shirt will be worn on all occasions by female Officers when in No 2/2W Ball Dress, No 6/6W Mess Dress and no 7/7W mess undress. A white polyester viscose tropical mess dress jacket is provided for tropical wear.

Introductory and supply arrangements

3. Gratuitous issues of the new mess dress are currently being made to all entitled sea going Officers and contract arrangements are in place for issues to new entrant Officers. Marcella evening shirts, cummerbunds and bow ties are available from stock. Storekeeping and accounting details are shown in the ANNEX.

4. Serving Officers without a seagoing liability may continue to wear the existing style of mess dress until 31 Mar 2003, or until replaced earlier in the normal course of uniform upkeep by the new style mess dress.

5. Officer's Uniform Relief (OUR) will be amended to include the new mess dress as from 1 Apr 95.

Publications

6. BR 81 (RN and RM Uniform Regulations) will be amended. In the meantime a copy of this DCI is to be retained within the covers of the BR until its contents have been incorporated by routine amendment.

ANNEX

a. Shirt, Womens Collar-attached evening

Stock No	Collar/Bust
V035-99-869-1507	32/88
V035-99-869-1508	33/88
V035-99-869-1509	34/88
V035-99-869-1510	34/92
V035-99-869-1511	35/92
V035-99-869-1512	35/96
V035-99-869-1513	36/96
V035-99-869-1514	36/100
V035-99-869-1515	37/100
V035-99-869-1516	37/104
V035-99-869-1517	38/104
V035-99-869-1518	38/108
V035-99-869-1519	39/108
V035-99-869-1520	39/112
V035-99-869-1521	40/112
V035-99-869-1522	41/112
V035-99-869-1523	Special Measure

Accounting Classification
Denomination
Fleet Issuing Price

L
EA
12.44 excl VAT
14.64 incl VAT

b. Cummerbund black womans

Stock No

Waist

V035-99-869-1346

60-68CM

V035-99-869-1347

68-76CM

V035-99-869-1348

76-84CM

V035-99-869-1349

Special Measure

Accounting Classification
Denomination
Fleet Issuing Price

L
EA
9.01 excl VAT
10.59 incl VAT

c. Bow, tie evening, double ended

Stock No

Size

V026-99-869-0523

31

V026-99-869-0524

32

V026-99-869-0525

33

V026-99-869-0526

34

V026-99-869-0527

35

V026-99-869-0528

36

V026-99-869-0529

37

Accounting Classification
Denomination
Fleet Issuing Price

L
EA
5.59 excl VAT
6.57 incl VAT