



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Clarification of STCW Endorsements Required for Able Seaman

This MSIB clarifies the manning regulations within Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 15.404 (b) and 15.840 (c) for vessels subject to Standards of Training and Certification of Watchkeeping, as Amended (STCW).

Title 46 CFR § 15.404(b) states that mariners filling one of the required able seamen billets on a vessel subject to STCW must hold an appropriate national endorsement as able seaman and an STCW endorsement as Able Seafarer – Deck (AS-D).

Title 46 CFR § 15.840(a) states that onboard all vessels of at least 100 GRT, 65% of the deck crew (excluding individuals serving as officers) must hold a merchant mariner credential (MMC) with a national able seaman endorsement. Onboard vessels with a two-watch system only 50% of those individuals are required to hold an MMC with an able seaman endorsement.

Title 46 CFR § 15.840(c) states that able seamen manning vessels subject to STCW must hold an MMC with an endorsement as either Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch (RFPNW) **or** AS-D.

Mariners filling one of the able seamen billets needed to meet the 65% required by 46 CFR § 15.840(a) must hold an appropriate national endorsement as able seaman **and** an STCW endorsement as AS-D. The remaining 35% of the deck crew of the vessel to which STCW applies may hold national endorsements as able seaman, **or** ordinary seaman, with an STCW endorsement as RFPNW.

For more information regarding these credentialing requirements or this MSIB, please contact Mr. John Reardon, Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing, Commandant (CG-MMC), U.S. Coast Guard, at (202) 372-2359 or MMCPolicy@uscg.mil.

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