



16742
CG-MMC Policy Letter
No. 04-19
June 20, 2019

From: M. Medina
COMDT (CG-MMC)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Medina", written over a circular stamp.

To: Distribution

Subj: STCW ENDORSEMENTS AS OFFICER IN CHARGE OF A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH AND MASTER OF VESSELS OF LESS THAN 500 GT LIMITED TO NEAR COASTAL VOYAGES FROM THE PORT OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

1. PURPOSE. This policy letter provides guidance for qualifying for STCW endorsements as Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch (OICNW) and Master that will be limited to vessels of less than 500 GT on near-coastal voyages from the port of San Diego, California.
2. ACTION. The Coast Guard will use this policy to evaluate applications for STCW endorsements as OICNW and Master of Vessels of Less Than 500 GT that will be limited to near-coastal voyages from the port of San Diego, California.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.
4. DISCUSSION.
 - a. As specified in 46 CFR 11.301(f), 11.317(c), and 11.321(c), the Coast Guard may exempt mariners from knowledge, understanding and proficiency (KUP) specified in Table A-II/3 of the STCW Code. We have determined that a number of the KUPs in STCW Code Table A-II/3 are not applicable to certain small passenger vessels operating on near-coastal international voyages from the port of San Diego, California. Accordingly, we will not require mariners to submit training and assessments associated with these KUPs for an endorsement limited to vessels carrying not more than 90 passengers in this geographic area.
 - b. Scope of endorsement. The STCW endorsement should be for a capacity as OICNW or Master under 46 CFR 11.321 (for OICNW) or 11.317 (for Master) and Section A-II/3 of the STCW Code and include the following limitation:

Valid ONLY on vessels less than 500 Gross Tons (GT). Limited to near-coastal voyages on vessels carrying not more than 90 passengers operating not more than 1,000 miles from the port of San Diego, California, not to exceed 16 days in duration and 200 miles from shore.

A person may not employ or engage an individual, and an individual may not serve in a position in which it is required by law or regulation that the individual hold an

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MMC endorsed with a national endorsement, as well as a corresponding STCW endorsement for service outside the boundary line (46 CFR 15.401(b)).

c. National Endorsement. To be eligible for a limited STCW endorsement as OICNW, mariners must hold any national officer endorsement other than Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV) that authorizes service as Mate on near coastal routes. For an endorsement as Master, mariners must hold any national officer endorsement, other than OUPV, authorizing service as Master valid for near coastal routes.

d. Service.

1) For OICNW, applicants must provide evidence of either:

- i) Twenty-four months of service in the deck department on vessels operating on oceans, near-coastal waters and/or the Great Lakes. Service on inland waters, bays, or sounds that are navigable waters of the United States may be substituted for up to 50 percent of the required service. Experience gained in the engine department may be creditable for up to 3 months of the required service (46 CFR 11.321(a)(1)(i)); or
- ii) Successful completion of an approved OICNW training program that includes 12 months of seagoing service (46 CFR 11.321(a)(1)(ii) and (iii)).

2) For Master, applicants must provide evidence of meeting the service for an STCW endorsement as OICNW above, and an additional 12 months of service as mate or other officer in charge of a navigational watch on vessels operating in oceans, near-coastal waters, and/or Great Lakes. Service on inland waters, bays, or sounds that are navigable waters of the United States may be substituted for up to 50 percent of the total required service. Experience gained in the engine department on vessels may be creditable for up to 1 month of the service requirement (46 CFR 11.317(a)(1)).

It is not necessary to have held an STCW endorsement as OICNW at the time service as the officer in charge of a navigational watch was obtained.

3) For the purposes of crediting sea service, a day will be as specified in 46 CFR 10.232(h)(3) and should be at least 4 hours. A creditable day of service may include time spent on vessel maintenance and repair, time preparing for and securing from a voyage, and may include more than one voyage in a single day.

e. Training. Evidence of successful completion of the following training must be submitted to qualify for a limited endorsement as OICNW or Master:

1) Basic Training (BT) [46 CFR 11.302(a)]. This training may be tailored to vessels of less than 500 GT (200 GRT) on near-coastal voyages and the BT will be limited to vessels of less than 500 GT (200 GRT). If BT was completed more than 5 years

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- before the date of application, the applicant must provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence as specified in 46 CFR 11.302(b);
- 2) Medical First Aid Provider, if not completed previously [46 CFR 11.317(a)(3)(i) and 11.321(a)(3)(i)];
 - 3) Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC) Limited, if not completed previously [46 CFR 11.317(a)(3)(iii) and 11.321(a)(3)(iii)]. This training may be tailored to vessels of less than 500 GT (200 GRT) that do not carry davit launched survival or rescue craft and the PSC endorsement will be limited to vessels of less than 500 GT (200 GRT) that do not carry davit launched survival or rescue craft;
 - 4) Electronic Chart Display Information Systems (ECDIS), for the endorsement to be valid on vessels with this equipment [46 CFR 11.317(a)(3)(v) and 11.321(a)(3)(v)];
 - 5) Radar Observer, for the endorsement to be valid on vessels with this equipment [46 CFR 11.317(a)(3)(vi) and 11.321(a)(3)(vi)]; and;
 - 6) Automatic Radar Plotting Aids (ARPA), for the endorsement to be valid on vessels with this equipment [46 CFR 11.317(a)(3)(vii) and 11.321(a)(3)(vii)].

Approved training for Advanced Firefighting and Leadership and Managerial Skills is not required for these limited endorsements.

- f. Assessments of Competence. To qualify for a limited endorsement as OICNW or Master, mariners should submit evidence of successful completion of the assessment tasks in Enclosure (2) of Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 13-14 (or a Coast Guard approved alternative), with the exception of the following tasks that do not need to be completed:

<u>Task No.</u>	<u>Task Description</u>
1.5.A	Navigate in a VTS
1.10.B	Set auto pilot weather controls
1.10.C	Change from auto pilot to hand steering
1.10.D	Change from hand steering to auto pilot
2.4.A	Comply with VTS procedures
6.1.A	Cargo handling, stowage, and securing
6.1.B	Carriage of dangerous cargo

Tasks noted in NVIC 13-14 as only being required for Master do not need to be completed to qualify for endorsement as OICNW. Mariners seeking a raise in grade from OICNW to Master with the same limitation need only submit the assessment tasks noted as being only for Master. Mariners seeking an endorsement as Master who have not held an STCW endorsement as OICNW must submit evidence of completion of all assessment

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tasks for both OICNW and Master described in NVIC 13-14, except those noted above as not required for these limited endorsements.

The assessments from NVIC 13-14 may be tailored to the equipment and practices aboard the vessel(s) on which the endorsement will be valid, provided that approval for alternative assessments is received from the National Maritime Center prior to their use. Assessments may also be embedded in Coast Guard approved training for these endorsements. Guidance on Coast Guard approved training may be found in NVIC 3-14, *Guidelines for Approval of Training Courses and Programs*. This NVIC and others are available at <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/NVIC/>.

- g. Renewal of Endorsements. To renew this limited endorsement, mariners should meet the applicable requirements in 46 CFR 10.227 to renew their national endorsement(s) and provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence for Basic Training as specified in 46 CFR 11.302(b). Mariners may meet this requirement with courses that were approved for vessels of less than 200 GRT or 500 GT on near-coastal voyages and have the BT endorsement limited to vessels of less than 500 GT (200 GRT).
- h. Removal of Limitation.
 - 1) To remove the limitation to vessels on voyages from the port of San Diego, California, and to qualify for an STCW endorsement as Master of Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters, mariners should meet all requirements specified in 46 CFR 11.317 that were not met previously, including, but not limited to completion of the assessments noted in paragraph 4.f, above, and approved training for Advanced Firefighting.
 - 2) If the mariner had qualified for this limited endorsement by completing Basic Training that was limited to vessels of less than 200 GRT or 500 GT, and is applying for an endorsement valid for vessels of 500 GT or more, the mariner must provide evidence of having completed approved original BT that was not limited. If this training was completed more than 5 years before the date of application, the applicant must provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence as specified in 46 CFR 11.302(b).
5. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this policy letter. An electronic version will be located at https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/National-Maritime-Center-NMC/policy_regulations/.
6. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is in itself a regulation. It is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party. This guidance represents the Coast Guard's current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. Alternative approaches

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for complying with these requirements may be acceptable if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

7. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. All requests for changes and questions regarding implementation of this NVIC and/or requests for changes should be directed to the Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division (CG-MMC-2), at (202) 372-2357 or MMCPolicy@uscg.mil.

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