



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
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Renewal of Mariner Credentials during the Lapse in Appropriations

Due to the Federal Government's lapse in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2014, the Coast Guard is unable to process all mariner credentials in time to ensure that all mariners receive their renewed credentials before their current documents expire. The mariner's most likely impacted by this situation are those individuals whose credentials expire between October 1, 2013 and November 30, 2013.

In an effort to resolve this issue, and under the authority of 46 United States Code 7507, the Coast Guard will be granting extensions to national endorsements until December 31, 2013. The Coast Guard will be posting a letter on National Maritime Center's website (www.uscg.mil/nmc) granting this extension that mariners may print and retain with their credential to be provided to Coast Guard or other officials who may ask to examine them. For mariners sailing domestically, the Coast Guard does not intend to issue any separate or new MMC to correspond to this extension.

For those mariners who must renew their credential and are likely to sail on international routes, the Coast Guard will issue a new credential. The Coast Guard will examine the mariner's information and issue a new credential to that mariner whose credential expires during the affected period which will have an expiration date of 31 December 2013. Those mariners that know their credential will expire between October 1, 2013 and November 30, 2013, and are likely to sail internationally, should contact the National Maritime Center as indicated below.

Mariners that have applied for and paid for credential application services during the lapse in appropriations will receive all entitled documents and qualifications once the Coast Guard has regained full operational status. All mariners should expeditiously submit their application for credentials coming due in the next few months to avoid further delays in receiving their documents.

Additional questions regarding this matter should be forwarded to the National Maritime Center at **1-888-IASKNMC** (1-888-427-5662) or by email at iasknmc@uscg.mil. Mariner and industry stakeholders are encouraged to monitor the NMC website for updates. www.uscg.mil/nmc.