

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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16742
CG-MMC Policy Letter
No. 03-18

From: M. Medina
COMDT (CG-MMC)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Medina", written over the typed name and title.

JUN 26 2018

To: Distribution

Subj: STCW ENDORSEMENTS AS MASTER OF VESSELS OF LESS THAN 500 GT
LIMITED TO NEAR COASTAL WATERS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

1. PURPOSE. This policy letter provides guidance for qualifying for STCW endorsements that will be limited to operations on near-coastal voyages of short duration in the vicinity of the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI).
2. ACTION. The Coast Guard will use this policy to evaluate applications for STCW endorsements as Master of Vessels of Less Than 500 GT that will be limited to near-coastal waters in the Virgin Islands.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.
4. DISCUSSION.
 - a. As specified in 46 CFR 11.301(f) and 11.317(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 vessels operating on near-coastal international voyages of short duration in the vicinity of the USVI. 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 12 passengers in this geographic area.
 - b. Scope of endorsement. The STCW endorsement should be for a capacity as *Master* under 46 CFR 11.317 and Section A-II/3 of the STCW Code and include the following limitations:

Not Valid on Vessels 500 Gross Tons (GT) or More. Limited to Near-Coastal Voyages on Vessels Carrying Not More Than 12 Passengers Operating Between the United States Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands, Not to Exceed Four Hours in Duration and 12 Miles from Shore.
 - c. National Endorsement. To be eligible for this limited STCW endorsement, mariners must hold any national endorsement, other than Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV), authorizing service as Master valid for near coastal routes.

- d. Service. Applicants must meet full service requirements provided in 46 CFR 11.317(a). For 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 this limited endorsement:

- 1) Basic Training. This training may be tailored to vessels of less than 500 GT (200 GRT) on near-coastal voyages. If basic 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);
- 2) Medical First Aid Provider, if not completed previously [46 CFR 11.317(a)(3)(i)];
- 3) Electronic Chart Display Information Systems (ECDIS), for the endorsement to be valid on vessels with this equipment [46 CFR 11.317(a)(3)(v)];
- 4) Radar Observer, for the endorsement to be valid on vessels with this equipment [46 CFR 11.317(a)(3)(vi)]; and;
- 5) Automatic Radar Plotting Aids (ARPA), for the endorsement to be valid on vessels with this equipment [46 CFR 11.317(a)(3)(vii)].

- f. Assessments of Competence. To qualify for this limited endorsement, 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:

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|--------|-------|--------|
| 1.4.B | 2.2.B | 5.2.B |
| 1.4.C | 2.2.C | 5.2.D |
| 1.5.A | 2.2.D | 5.2.E |
| 1.6.A | 2.2.F | 6.1.A |
| 1.6.B | 2.3.A | 6.1.B |
| 1.6.C | 2,3.B | 8.1.A |
| 1.10.A | 2.4.A | 9.1.A |
| 1.10.B | 3.2.C | 9.2.A |
| 1.10.C | 3.3.A | 9.3.A |
| 1.10.D | 3.6.A | 9.4.A |
| 1.13.A | 3.7.A | 10.1.A |
| 2.2.A | 4.1.A | |

- 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

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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.

h. Removal of Limitation.

- 1) To remove the limitation to vessels carrying not more than 12 passengers on voyages in the Virgin Islands, 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 and Proficiency in Survival Craft or Proficiency in Survival Craft-Limited.
 - 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, the mariner must provide evidence of having completed 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 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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