



16742
CG-MMC Policy Letter
No. 04-18

October 19, 2018

From: M. Medina
COMDT (CG-MMC)

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

To: National Maritime Center

Subj: QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ENGINE DEPARTMENT (QMED)
ENDORSEMENTS FOR ENGINEER OFFICERS ENDORSED FOR SERVICE ON
INSPECTED VESSELS OVER 2,000 HORSEPOWER

1. **PURPOSE.** This policy letter provides guidance for issuing ratings endorsements as Qualified Member of the Engine Department (QMED) to mariners holding or qualifying for national engineer officer endorsements for over 2,000 horsepower (HP).
2. **ACTION.** The Coast Guard will use this policy to determine if mariners holding national officer endorsements are entitled to hold QMED endorsements.
3. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** None.
4. **BACKGROUND.**
 - a. The final rule on STCW and Changes to National Endorsements (78 FR 77796), added a provision in 46 CFR 15.865(a), which requires all mariners serving as a Qualified Member of the Engine Department (QMED) to hold a rating endorsement as a QMED. This requirement became effective on March 24, 2014.
 - b. Prior to the final rule change, the former 46 CFR 12.02-11(a)(2) (2013) provided that an engineer officer endorsed for inspected vessels of over 2,000 horsepower (HP) was authorized to serve in any rating capacity in the engine department.
 - c. With the regulatory change described in paragraph (a), mariners holding national engineer officer endorsements for vessels over 2,000 HP, without a MMC endorsement for QMED, would have lost their authority to serve as a QMED effective on March 24, 2014.
 - d. To facilitate full implementation of this regulatory change, the provision in 46 CFR 15.865(a) was phased in during a 5-year period after March 24, 2014, which was the effective date of the final rule. During this period, mariners may be qualified for QMED endorsements under the previous regulations in 46 CFR 12.02-11(a)(2) [2013], which were in place before March 24, 2014.

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- e. Until March 24, 2019, a mariner holding an engineer officer endorsement for inspected vessels over 2,000 HP may qualify for and be issued a QMED endorsement without additional examination.
- f. As is specified in 46 CFR 12.505(a), before a mariner may be issued any endorsement as QMED, they must successfully complete an examination on subjects relevant to the endorsement.

5. DISCUSSION.

- a. Beginning on March 24, 2019, all persons serving as a QMED must hold a national rating endorsement as a QMED, in accordance with 46 CFR 15.865(a).
- b. Under the previous regulations in 46 CFR 12.02-11(a)(2), mariners holding the following officer endorsements in any propulsion mode were authorized to serve in any rating capacity in the engine department, including QMED, without holding a QMED endorsement:
 - 1) Chief Engineer (46 CFR 11.510);
 - 2) First Assistant Engineer (46 CFR 11.512);
 - 3) Second Assistant Engineer (46 CFR 11.514);
 - 4) Third Assistant Engineer (46 CFR 11.516);
 - 5) Chief Engineer (Limited) (46 CFR 11.518);
 - 6) Assistant Engineer (Limited) (46 CFR 11.522);
 - 7) Designated Duty Engineer Unlimited Propulsion Power (46 CFR 11.524(b)(1));
 - 8) Designated Duty Engineer Less Than 4,000 Horsepower (46 CFR 11.524(b)(2));
 - 9) Chief Engineer (MODU) (46 CFR 11.542);
 - 10) Assistant Engineer (MODU) (46 CFR 11.544);
 - 11) Chief Engineer (OSV) (46 CFR 11.553); and
 - 12) Assistant Engineer (OSV) (46 CFR 11.555).
- c. Mariners holding any of the officer endorsements listed in paragraph 5.b. valid for over 2,000 HP in any propulsion mode before March 24, 2019, will have their MMCs endorsed for "QMED-Any Rating" on their next MMC transaction. These mariners do not need to specifically request that the QMED-Any Rating endorsement be added to their MMC.
- d. After March 24, 2019, mariners serving as QMED should hold the appropriate QMED endorsement. Until December 31, 2019, engineering officers endorsed for inspected vessels of more than 2,000 HP who do not hold a QMED endorsement may continue to

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serve as a QMED if they have applied for the QMED endorsement before March 24, 2019.

- e. On or after March 24, 2019, mariners who are applying for national engineer officer endorsements may qualify for QMED endorsements by completing the appropriate QMED examinations as required by 46 CFR 12.505(a). The specific examination modules that will need to be completed are as specified in Enclosure (1). When no additional exam is required for a QMED endorsement, the mariner does not need to specifically request that the QMED endorsement(s) be added to their MMC. If an examination is required for a QMED endorsement, the mariner must request that the endorsement be added to their MMC as part of the application for the officer endorsement. Mariners who are applying for QMED endorsements who are not also applying for a national engineer officer endorsement at the same time must complete the full examination for each QMED endorsement applied for.
6. **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/.
7. **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.
8. **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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Encl: (1): QMED Examination Requirements

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On or after March 24, 2019, mariners applying for national engineer officer endorsements may qualify for QMED endorsements by completing the QMED examination modules noted in the table below. Mariners who are not applying for QMED and an officer endorsement *at the same time* must take the complete examination for each QMED endorsement applied for.

Engine Officer Endorsement	Pumpman/ Machinist	Fireman/ Watertender	Oiler	Electrician/ Refrigerating Engineer	Junior Engineer
Chief Engineer (Any Propulsion Mode)	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam
First Assistant Engineer (Any Propulsion Mode)	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam
Second Assistant Engineer (Steam)	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam
Second Assistant Engineer (Motor or Gas Turbine)	No exam	No exam	Q800	No exam	Q800
Third Assistant Engineer (Steam)	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam
Third Assistant Engineer (Motor or Gas Turbine)	No exam	No exam	Q800	No exam	Q800
Chief Engineer (Limited)	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam
Assistant Engineer (Limited)	No exam	No exam	Q800	No exam	Q800
Chief Engineer (OSV)	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam
Assistant Engineer (OSV)	No exam	No exam	Q800	No exam	Q800
Chief Engineer Uninspected Fishing Industry Vessels	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam
Assistant Engineer Uninspected Fishing Industry Vessels	No exam	No exam	Q800	Q802	Q800
Chief Engineer (MODU)	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam	No exam
Assistant Engineer (MODU)	No exam	No exam	Q800	Q802	Q800
Designated Duty Engineer Less Unlimited HP ¹	No exam	No exam	Q800 ¹	No exam	Q800 ¹
Designated Duty Engineer Less Than 4,000 HP ¹	No exam	No exam	Q800 ¹	Q802	Q800 ¹
Designated Duty Engineer Less Than 1,000 HP ¹	No exam	No exam	Q800 ¹	Q802	Q800 ¹

1 Mariners who hold this endorsement valid for steam propulsion may qualify for QMED endorsements as Oiler and Junior Engineer without examination