



COMDTNOTE 16721
NVIC 02-14
February 19, 2020

CANCELLATION OF NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 02-14

Subj: GRANDFATHERING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS, NVIC 02-14, COMDTPUB 16721

Ref: (a) Grandfathering and Transitional Provisions for Merchant Mariner Credentials, NVIC 02-14, COMDTPUB 16721

1. PURPOSE. This Commandant Notice cancels reference (a).
2. ACTION. Officers in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMIs) should bring this notice to the attention of the maritime industry within their zones of responsibility.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. NVIC 02-14, Grandfathering and Transitional Provisions for Merchant Mariner Credentials, is cancelled.
4. DISCUSSION.
 - a. The STCW Convention and STCW Code set forth standards for training and certification for merchant mariners. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) amended the STCW Convention and STCW Code on June 25, 2010. These amendments entered into force for all ratifying countries on January 1, 2012.
 - b. The United States, as a signatory to the STCW Convention, initiated regulatory changes to ensure full implementation of the amendments to the STCW Convention and STCW Code. These provisions were implemented under the Convention and under the authority of the United States Code, Titles 33 and 46. The Coast Guard published a final rule in the Federal Register on December 24, 2013 (78 FR 77796) that implemented the STCW Convention and STCW Code, including the 2010 amendments. This rule became effective on March 24, 2014.
 - c. The rule included grandfathering and transition provisions for mariners who began their service or training for an endorsement prior to the effective date of the rule to continue to qualify for that endorsement under the regulations and policies in effect immediately prior to the effective date

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of the rule. These grandfathering provisions expired on January 1, 2017, for STCW endorsements, and on March 24, 2019, for national endorsements.

- d. As the grandfathering and transition provisions in reference (a) have expired, and applications for Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC) endorsements received prior to the deadline(s) have been processed, NVIC 02-14 is no longer necessary and does not represent current Coast Guard regulations and policy. Accordingly NVIC 02-14 is being cancelled.
5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a regulation. It is not intended to, nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard's current thinking on this topic and is issued for guidance purposes to outline methods of best practice for compliance with applicable law. You can use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.
 6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
 - a. The cancellation of NVIC 02-14 and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01 and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series) by the originating office, and are categorically excluded (CE) from further environmental analysis under paragraph #A3 in Table 3-1 of U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Implementing Procedures 5090.1. Because this NVIC implements, without substantive change, the applicable Commandant Instruction or other federal agency regulations, procedures, manuals, and other guidance documents, Coast Guard categorical exclusion #A3 is appropriate.
 - b. Cancellation of NVIC 02-14 will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this NVIC must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates.
 7. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Commandant Notice.
 8. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. Cancellation of this NVIC has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are no further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with the Federal Records Act (44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), NARA requirements, and the Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not create significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.
 9. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

10. QUESTIONS. All questions regarding cancellation of Reference (a) and this Commandant Notice should be directed to the Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division (CG-MMC-2), at (202) 372-2357 or MMCPolicy@uscg.mil.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. V. Timme', with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the signature.

R. V. TIMME
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy