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United States Coast Guard

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COMDTCHANGENOTE 16721
NVIC 04-14
December 15, 2021

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 04-14, CH-2

Subj: CHANGE 2 TO GUIDELINES FOR QUALIFICATION FOR STCW ENDORSEMENTS FOR PROFICIENCY IN SURVIVAL CRAFT AND RESCUE BOATS OTHER THAN FAST RESCUE BOATS, NVIC 04-14, COMDTPUB 16721

Ref: (a) Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats, NVIC 04-14, COMDTPUB 16721

1. PURPOSE. This Commandant Change Notice publishes CH-1 to NVIC 04-14.
2. ACTION. The Coast Guard will use reference (a), 46 CFR 12.613 and 12.615 to establish whether mariners are qualified to hold STCW endorsements for Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC) and Proficiency in Survival Craft-Limited (PSC-Limited).
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. With the release of this Commandant Change Notice, NVIC 04-14 is updated.
4. DISCUSSION. The Coast Guard is aware that as a result of the limited number of approved QAs, there may be a hardship on mariners trying to complete STCW assessments after December 31, 2021. In consideration of this, the Coast Guard will continue to allow STCW assessments to be signed by an assessor who meets the requirements specified in NVIC 19-14 until December 31, 2023. These assessments must be submitted to the Coast Guard as part of a complete application no later than June 30, 2024. Qualified military personnel need not be approved QAs and may continue to sign assessments after December 31, 2023. This Commandant Change Notice revises NVIC 04-14 to reflect this extension.
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.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 170

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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

6. MAJOR CHANGES. This Commandant Change Notice revises NVIC 04-14 to extend the date for acceptance of assessments that were not signed by a Coast Guard approved Qualified Assessor.
7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
 - a. The development of this Commandant Change Notice 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 Commandant Change Notice 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. This development of this Commandant Change Notice 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 Commandant Change Notice 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.
8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Commandant Change Notice. An electronic version will be located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic>.
9. PROCEDURE. Remove and insert the following pages:

<u>Remove</u>	<u>Insert</u>
Enclosure (2), Page 1 CH-1	Enclosure (2), Page 1 CH-2
Enclosure (3), Page 4 CH-1	Enclosure (3), Page 4 CH-2
10. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Commandant Change Notice 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.
11. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

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

/s/

J. W. MAUGER

Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy

COMDTCHANGENOTE 16721
NVIC 4-14
September 18, 2019

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-14, CH-1

Subj: CH-1 TO GUIDELINES FOR QUALIFICATION FOR STCW ENDORSEMENTS FOR PROFICIENCY IN SURVIVAL CRAFT AND RESCUE BOATS OTHER THAN FAST RESCUE BOATS, NVIC 4-14, COMDTPUB 16721

Ref: (a) Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats, NVIC 4-14, COMDTPUB 16721

1. PURPOSE. This Commandant Change Notice publishes CH-1 to reference (a).
2. ACTION. The Coast Guard will use reference (a), 46 CFR 12.613 and 12.615 to establish whether mariners are qualified to hold STCW endorsements for Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC) and Proficiency in Survival Craft-Limited (PSC-Limited). Officers in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMIs) should also bring this notice to the attention of the maritime industry within their zones of responsibility.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. With the release of this Commandant Change Notice, reference (a) is updated.
4. DISCUSSION.
 - a. Reference (a) included grandfathering provisions for mariners to demonstrate continuing competency in PSC and PSC-Limited that expired on January 1, 2017. This change notice removes the expired grandfathering provisions.
 - b. The Coast Guard has become aware of confusion over whether mariners who serve on vessels that are in operation and do not get underway, including, but not limited to, vessels in reduced operating status (ROS), may use their service to demonstrate having maintained the standard of competence for some of the components of PSC and PSC-Limited. This change notice adds language to clarify that this service may be used for this purpose if the vessels hold regular training and abandon ship drills.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 170

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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

- c. After publication of reference (a), the Coast Guard extended the date for acceptance of assessments of mariner competence that are not signed by a Coast Guard-approved Qualified Assessor. This change notice revises Reference (a) to reflect this extension.
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. MAJOR CHANGES. This Change Notice revises the guidance found in reference (a) to:
 - a. Remove grandfathering provisions that expired on January 1, 2017;
 - b. Clarify whether mariners serving on vessels that do not get underway may use their service to establish having maintained the standard of competence for PSC and PSC-Limited;
 - c. Add an explanation of the requirement in 46 CFR 11.201(a)(1) that mariners must hold an appropriate national endorsement to qualify for an STCW endorsement;
 - d. Reflect previously published policy extending the date for acceptance of assessments that were not signed by a Coast Guard approved Qualified Assessor, and to add additional information concerning assessments that are performed on military vessels;
 - e. Revise the Record of Assessment in Enclosure (3) to remove tasks that are assessed by a mariner's completion of a written examination or an approved or accepted course for their endorsement. This change notice revises the Record of Assessment in Enclosure (3) to include only the tasks that must be completed by a practical demonstration; and
 - f. Correct typographical errors in Enclosure (3) concerning the applicability of assessments 1.4.A, 1.4.B, and 1.5.B to endorsements for PSC or PSC-Limited. This change notice corrects those errors and makes the relevant parts of Enclosures (2) and (3) consistent. The relevant parts of Enclosure (2) did not have errors and are not changed.
 7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
 - a. The development of this NVIC 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) under current USCG CE # 33 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. This Commandant Change Notice 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.

8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Commandant Change Notice. An electronic version will be located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic>.
9. PROCEDURE. Remove and insert the following pages:

<u>Remove</u>	<u>Insert</u>
Enclosure (1)	Enclosure (1) CH-1
Enclosure (2), Page 1	Enclosure (2), Page 1 CH-1
Enclosure (3)	Enclosure (3) CH-1
10. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Commandant Change Notice 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.
11. FORMS/REPORTS. None.
12. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. All requests for changes or questions regarding implementation of Reference (a) and this Commandant Change Notice should be directed to the Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division (CG-MMC-2), at (202) 372-2357 or MMCPolicy@uscg.mil.



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

4. BACKGROUND.

- a. The STCW Convention and STCW Code set forth standards for training and certification for merchant mariners, including qualification requirements and standards of competence for PSC and PSC-Limited.
- b. In order to implement the 1995 amendments to STCW, the Coast Guard published NVIC 03-02 and several NMC policy letters providing guidance on how mariners may qualify for endorsements for PSC and PSC-Limited, and for organizations offering training in survival craft operation.
- c. 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.
- d. The Convention is not self-implementing; therefore, the U.S., as a signatory to the STCW Convention, must effect regulatory changes to ensure full implementation of the amendments to the STCW Convention and STCW Code. The U.S. implements these provisions under the Convention and under the authority of United States Code, Titles 33 and 46.
- e. The Coast Guard published a final rule on December 24, 2013, (78 FR 77796) that implements the STCW, including the 2010 amendments. The Coast Guard is publishing this NVIC to provide guidance on complying with the new regulations and is cancelling previous policy. Accordingly, this NVIC cancels NVIC 03-02 and NMC Policy Letters 15-98, 05-01, 08-01, and 01-03.

5. DISCUSSION.

- a. Policy regarding PSC and PSC-Limited is located in this NVIC. Enclosure (1) describes specific requirements found in the regulations for this endorsement. Enclosure (2) contains the national assessment guidelines for PSC and PSC-Limited. Enclosure (3) provides a template that may be used to record completion of assessments. Enclosure (4) contains relevant excerpts from the STCW Convention and STCW Code.
- b. When assessing practical demonstrations of skills, Qualified Assessors are encouraged to use the guidelines in Enclosure (2). Absent approval from the National Maritime Center (NMC), Shipboard Qualified Assessors should only make minor changes to the assessments in Enclosure (2) to reflect differences in equipment and operating procedures.
- c. Training institutions submitting a course that leads to a PSC or PSC-Limited endorsement should state either that the guidelines in Enclosure (2) will apply or provide the guidelines it proposes to use.
- d. The assessments in Enclosure 2 may also be used to meet the requirements for a practical demonstration for national endorsements as Lifeboatman or Lifeboatman-Limited.

- e. 46 CFR 12.613 and 12.615 address the requirements for demonstration of continued proficiency for revalidation of PSC and PSC-Limited endorsements. As stated therein, mariners who have at least 1 year (360 days) of seagoing service within the previous 5 years will be considered to have met a portion of this requirement; the remainder must be demonstrated ashore in Coast Guard approved or accepted training. Mariners who do not have 1 year of service in the previous 5 years must either take the original course, or an approved or accepted refresher course that includes assessments of continued proficiency in all competencies related to PSC and/or PSC-Limited.
6. 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 to the applicable law. You can use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.
 7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
 - a. The development of this NVIC and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office, and are categorically excluded (CE) under current USCG CE # 33 from further environmental analysis, in accordance with Section 2.B.2. and Figure 2-1 of the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series). 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 #33 is appropriate.
 - b. This NVIC 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.
 8. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. 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 Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., NARA requirements, and 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 implementation of this Circular should be directed to the Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division (CG-CVC-4) at (202) 372-2357 or MMCPolicy@uscg.mil. To obtain approval for an alternative to the assessments described in Enclosure (2), contact the NMC at (888) 427-5662 or IAskNMC@uscg.mil.



J. A. SERVIDIO
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy

- Encl: (1) Discussion of Qualification Requirements for Endorsements for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Proficiency in Survival Craft-Limited
(2) Assessment Guidelines for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Proficiency in Survival Craft-Limited
(3) Record of Assessment for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Proficiency in Survival Craft-Limited
(4) Excerpts from STCW Convention and STCW Code

**DISCUSSION OF COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENTS
FOR PROFICIENCY IN SURVIVAL CRAFT AND PROFICIENCY IN
SURVIVAL CRAFT-LIMITED**

1. GENERAL. This enclosure provides guidance for mariners to qualify for the following endorsements in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW):
 - a. Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats (PSC) as specified in 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 12.613; and
 - b. Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Lifeboats and Fast Rescue Boats - Limited (PSC-Limited) as specified in 46 CFR 12.615.

An applicant for an STCW endorsement must hold an appropriate national endorsement (46 CFR 12.201(a)(1)). To be eligible for an STCW endorsement for PSC, an applicant must hold or qualify for a national endorsement as Lifeboatman. To be eligible for an STCW endorsement for PSC-Limited, mariners must hold or qualify for a national endorsement as Lifeboatman or Lifeboatman-Limited.

2. SEA SERVICE, TRAINING, AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR PSC.
 - a. As specified in 46 CFR 12.613(a), to qualify for a PSC endorsement, an applicant must:
 - 1) Be at least 18 years of age;
 - 2) Complete STCW Basic Training (BT) and maintain standards of competence in BT as specified in 46 CFR 12.601(c)(2); and
 - 3) Meet the requirements for a national Lifeboatman endorsement found in 46 CFR 12.407, as follows:
 - A) Meet the physical and medical examination requirements in 46 CFR Part 10, Subpart D;
 - B) Present evidence of having passed a chemical test for dangerous drugs or qualifying for an exemption for testing;
 - C) Meet one of the following sea service requirements:
 - i) At least 12 months of sea service in any department of vessels on ocean, coastwise, inland, and Great Lakes waters; or
 - ii) At least 6 months of sea service in any department of vessels and successful completion of an approved course.

- D) Prove to the satisfaction of the Coast Guard, by oral or other means of examination, and by actual practical demonstration of abilities, his or her knowledge of seamanship and the ability to carry out effectively all the duties that may be required of a Lifeboatman as follows:
- i) The practical demonstration must consist of a demonstration of the applicant's ability to:
 - a) Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch;
 - b) Operate a survival craft engine;
 - c) Demonstrate the ability to row by actually pulling an oar in the boat;
 - d) Manage a survival craft and survivors after abandoning ship;
 - e) Safely recover survival craft and rescue boats; and
 - f) Use locating and communication devices.
 - ii) The examination, whether administered orally or by other means, must be conducted only in the English language and must consist of questions regarding the following:
 - a) Lifeboats and liferafts, the names of their essential parts, and a description of the required equipment;
 - b) The clearing away, swinging out, and lowering of lifeboats and liferafts, the handling of lifeboats under oars and sails, including questions relative to the proper handling of a boat in a heavy sea; and
 - c) The operation and functions of commonly used types of davits.
- b. Mariners holding an endorsement as Lifeboatman before January 1, 2017, will be eligible for this endorsement upon showing evidence of sea service of not less than 12 months within the last 60 months. The sea service must have been completed prior to January 1, 2017 (46 CFR 12.613(c)).
- c. Continued Professional Competence.
- 1) To renew a PSC endorsement, mariners must provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence as set out in Table A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code every 5 years (46 CFR 12.613(b)(1));
 - 2) The Coast Guard will accept currently valid STCW Basic Training and onboard training and experience, through evidence of 1 year (360 days) of sea service within the last 5 years, as meeting the requirements for continued professional competence.
 - 3) For demonstrating continued competence in PSC and PSC-Limited, the Coast Guard will accept service in any capacity aboard a vessel that is required to hold regular abandon ship drills as being relevant to the qualification of PSC. Service on vessels in

- reduced operating status (ROS) will be accepted as these vessels are required to hold drills under 46 CFR Subchapter W. Mariners may demonstrate that service on other vessels is relevant by providing evidence that their service included duties relevant to PSC, or that their service included ongoing participation in training and abandon ship drills relevant to PSC.
- d. Mariners who can provide evidence of one year of service within the past five years may complete *revalidation* training to maintain competency for PSC. As specified in 46 CFR 12.613(b)(4), mariners who cannot meet the requirement for 1 year of service within the last 5 years will be required to complete an approved or accepted PSC course or an approved or accepted *refresher* course that includes assessment of all competencies for PSC.

3. SEA SERVICE, TRAINING, AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR PSC-LIMITED.

- a. As specified in 46 CFR 12.615(a), to qualify for a PSC-limited endorsement, an applicant must:
- 1) Be at least 18 years of age;
 - 2) Complete STCW Basic Training (BT) and maintain standards of competence in BT as specified in 46 CFR 12.601(c)(2);
 - 3) Meet the requirements for a national Lifeboatman endorsement found in 46 CFR 12.409, as follows:
 - A) Meet the physical and medical examination requirements in 46 CFR Part 10, Subpart D;
 - B) Present evidence of having passed a chemical test for dangerous drugs or qualifying for an exemption for testing;
 - C) Meet one of the following sea service requirements:
 - i) At least 12 months of sea service in any department of vessels on ocean, coastwise, inland, and Great Lakes waters; or
 - ii) At least 6 months of sea service in any department of vessels and successful completion of an approved course.
 - D) Prove to the satisfaction of the Coast Guard, by oral or other means of examination, and by actual practical demonstration of abilities, his or her knowledge of seamanship and the ability to carry out effectively all the duties that may be required of a Lifeboatman-Limited as follows:
 - i) The practical demonstration must consist of a demonstration of the applicant's ability to:
 - a) Take charge of a rescue boat, liferaft, or other lifesaving apparatus during and after launch;

- b) Operate a rescue boat engine;
 - c) Manage a survival craft and survivors after abandoning ship;
 - d) Safely recover rescue boats; and
 - e) Use locating and communication devices.
- ii) The examination, whether administered orally or by other means, must be conducted only in the English language and must consist of questions regarding:
- a) Liferafts, rescue boats, and other survival craft except lifeboats, the names of their essential parts, and a description and use of the required equipment;
 - b) The clearing away, launching, and handling of rescue craft except lifeboats; and
 - c) The operation and functions of commonly used launching devices for rescue boats and survival craft other than lifeboats.
- b. Mariners holding an endorsement as lifeboatman before January 1, 2017, will be eligible for this endorsement upon showing evidence of sea service of not less than 12 months within the last 60 months. The sea service must have been completed prior to January 1, 2017 (46 CFR 12.615(c)).
- c. Continued Professional Competence.
- 1) To renew a PSC-Limited endorsement, seafarers must provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence as set out in Table A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code every 5 years (46 CFR 12.615(b)(1)).
 - 2) The Coast Guard will accept currently valid STCW Basic Training and onboard training and experience, through evidence of 1 year (360 days) of sea service within the last 5 years, as meeting the requirements for continued professional competence.
 - 3) For demonstrating continued competence in PSC-Limited, the Coast Guard will accept service in any capacity aboard a vessel that is required to hold regular abandon ship drills as being relevant to the qualification of PSC-Limited. Service on vessels in reduced operating status (ROS) will be accepted as these vessels are required to hold drills under 46 CFR Subchapter W. Mariners may demonstrate that service on other vessels is relevant by providing evidence that their service included duties relevant to PSC-Limited, or that their service included ongoing participation in training and abandon ship drills relevant to PSC-Limited.
 - 4) For purposes of continued competence for PSC-Limited, this service will be credited at day for day.
- d. As specified in 46 CFR 12.615(b)(4), mariners who cannot meet the requirement for 1 year of sea service within the last 5 years will be required to complete an approved or

accepted PSC-Limited course or approved or accepted refresher training that includes assessment of all competencies for PSC-Limited.

4. INCREASING THE SCOPE OF AN ENDORSEMENT FROM PSC (LIMITED) TO PSC.

A mariner holding a PSC (Limited) endorsement can qualify for a PSC endorsement by completing those assessments for PSC that are not required for PSC-limited. Assessments that do not require the use of a lifeboat need not be repeated. These assessments are noted by “PSC” in the table of assessments in Enclosure (2).

Assessment Guidelines for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Proficiency in Survival Craft–Limited

Standard of Competence

As specified in 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 12.613(a)(2) and 12.615(a)(2), to qualify for an endorsement for Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC) or Proficiency in Survival Craft-Limited (PSC-Limited), mariners must meet the standards of competence in STCW Code Table A-VI/2-1. The table below is adopted from Table A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code (found in Enclosure (4)) to assist the candidate and assessor in the demonstration of competency.

Practical Skill Demonstrations

These assessment guidelines establish the conditions under which the assessment will occur, the performance or behavior the candidate is to accomplish, and the standards against which the performance is measured.

Qualified Assessors

A shipboard Qualified Assessor (QA) who witnesses a practical assessment may sign the appropriate blocks and pages in the Record of Assessment in Enclosure (3) or an equivalent record. All assessments must be signed by a qualified assessor approved by the Coast Guard in accordance with 46 CFR 10.405. In order to facilitate the transition to this new requirement, the Coast Guard will accept assessments that have been demonstrated in the presence of, and signed by, an assessor who has not been Coast Guard approved until December 31, 2023, provided that the assessor meets the professional requirements in 46 CFR 10.405(a)(3) to assess competence for the specific endorsement. Assessors must hold an endorsement, or other professional credential, which provides proof that he or she has attained a level of experience and qualification equal or superior to the relevant level of knowledge, skills, and abilities to be assessed (46 CFR 10.405(a)(3)). Until June 30, 2024, the Coast Guard will accept assessments signed before January 1, 2024, by mariners with shipboard experience on vessels of at least 200 GRT/500 GT as an officer with assigned duties as the person in charge of a lifeboat (for PSC or PSC-Limited endorsements) or a survival craft (for PSC-Limited). After December 31, 2023, QAs must be approved by the National Maritime Center to conduct the assessment (46 CFR 10.405). Qualified military personnel need not be approved QAs and may continue to sign assessments on military vessels after December 31, 2023.

Notes

- BOTH** The assessment is for both PSC and PSC-Limited.
- PSC** The assessment is only for an endorsement as PSC. Mariners holding endorsements as PSC-Limited who wish to increase the scope of the endorsement to PSC should complete these assessments.
- LTD** The assessment is only for an endorsement as PSC-Limited.
- EXAM** The assessment may be satisfied by successful completion of a Coast Guard administered examination for a national endorsement as Lifeboatman or Lifeboatman-Limited endorsement or a course approved or accepted to substitute for the Coast Guard examination.

Successful completion of these Assessment Guidelines will provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code. The use of these Assessment Guidelines is not mandatory and an alternative means of having achieved the standards of competence in the STCW Code will be considered. In accordance with 46 CFR 12.601(b)(3), alternative guidelines must be submitted to the National Maritime Center and approved before use.

Assessment Guidelines for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Proficiency in Survival Craft–Limited

Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.1.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Take charge of a lifeboat during and after launch	Construction and outfit of survival craft and individual items of their equipment	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes the size and limitations of survival craft and where the individual items are stored.	The candidate: 1. Correctly identifies and lists the individual items required to be in the survival craft; and 2. Describes the dimensions of the survival craft.
1.2.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Take charge of a lifeboat during and after launch	Particular characteristics and facilities of survival craft	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes the special functions of and the construction of survival craft.	The candidate describes the reasons for having the special functions of the survival craft and the minimum SOLAS requirements for the construction of the survival craft.

Successful completion of these Assessment Guidelines will provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code. The use of these Assessment Guidelines is not mandatory and an alternative means of having achieved the standards of competence in the STCW Code will be considered. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.402(e), alternative guidelines must be submitted to the National Maritime Center and approved before use.

Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.3.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Take charge of a survival craft during and after launch	Various types of devices used for launching survival craft	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes various types of survival craft launching devices, their ancillary, and their locations.	The candidate describes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What determines the minimum number of lifeboats required on a ship; 2. What determines the location of lifeboats on a ship, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. access from accommodations; b. access from work spaces; c. distance from power sources; and d. potential isolation from the primary survival craft; 3. Equipment that will be found near each launching station, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. embarkation ladders; b. manropes; and c. painters; 4. The minimum number of people needed to operate the survival craft launching devices; and 5. Common maintenance requirements, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. lubrication; b. stowage to prevent movement in a seaway; c. being kept ready for use; and d. illumination.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
<p>1.3.B <i>PSC EXAM</i></p>	<p>Take charge of a survival craft during and after launch</p>	<p>Various types of device used for launching survival craft</p>	<p>On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,</p>	<p>the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes various types of survival craft launching devices, their ancillary, and their locations.</p>	<p>The candidate describes gravity davits including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principle of operation; 2. Limits to use, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. maximum list; and b. load limits; 3. General description including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. gripes; b. tricing pendants; c. davit arms; d. floating blocks; and e. plate links; 4. Means to control rate of descent; 5. General maintenance; 6. Potential hazards when lowering survival craft; 7. Potential hazards when recovering survival craft; 8. Potential hazards when stowing survival craft; and 9. Proper stowage of survival craft.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.3.C <i>PSC EXAM</i>	Take charge of a survival craft during and after launch	Various types of device used for launching survival craft	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes various types of survival craft launching devices, their ancillary, and their locations.	The candidate describes free-fall launching equipment including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principle of operation; 2. Limits to use, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. maximum list; b. load limits; and c. maximum fall limits; 3. General description including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. release mechanism; and b. safety locks to prevent accidental release during drills and maintenance; 4. General maintenance; 5. Potential hazards when releasing free-fall survival craft; 6. Limitations and hazards when recovering free-fall survival craft; 7. Potential hazards when working around stowed free-fall survival craft; and 8. Proper stowage of survival craft.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.3.D <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Take charge of a survival craft during and after launch	Various types of device used for launching survival craft	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes various types of survival craft launching devices, their ancillary, and their locations.	The candidate describes the use of single-point davits including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principle of operation; 2. Limits to use, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. maximum list; b. load limits; and c. maximum fall limits; 3. General description including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. release mechanism; and b. safety locks to prevent accidental release during drills and maintenance; 4. General maintenance; 5. Potential hazards when releasing survival craft; 6. Limitations and hazards when recovering survival craft; 7. Potential hazards when working around stowed survival craft; and 8. Proper stowage of survival craft.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.4.A <i>PSC</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of launching survival craft into a rough sea	Using a lifeboat properly stowed on gravity davits,	the candidate commands the launching of the lifeboat.	<p>The candidate issues the following orders in proper sequence and verifies that they have been properly carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If fitted with this equipment, remove the boat cover and strong backs; plug the drain; ready man ropes; ship the tiller; 2. Check that the painter is properly attached and remove gripes; 3. Lead the painter inside falls and outboard of all obstructions; 4. Remove slack and secure the painter well forward by a round turn and figure eights on the bitts; 5. Pass frapping lines around the falls after the tricing pendants have pulled the lifeboat into the side of the ship, and slack as needed during the boat's descent; 6. Let go tricing pendants; and 7. Lift brake release and lower lifeboat. <p>NOTE: If it is unsafe or impractical for persons to ride the boat to the water, this component of the task may be simulated.</p>

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.4.B <i>LTD</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of launching survival craft into a rough sea	Using a rescue boat properly stowed on a single-arm davit, mounted on a pier or a ship, when hearing an order in English to lower the rescue boat,	the candidate commands the launching of a rescue boat.	<p>The candidate issues the following orders in proper sequence and verifies that they have been properly carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove boat cover and securing lines; put in drain plugs if fitted, check fuel- and lube-oil levels, test engine, and make sure all rescue gear is aboard; 2. Check that the sea painter is properly attached; 3. Secure control lines (if fitted) at rescue boat bow and stem; 4. Check that the out drive has been lowered; 5. Swing the rescue boat to the embarkation position; and 6. Lower the rescue boat to water. <p>NOTE: If it is unsafe or impractical for persons to ride the boat to the water, this component of the task may be simulated.</p>
1.4.C <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Take charge of a life raft during and after launch	Methods of launching survival craft into a rough sea	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes the launching of a life rafts into rough seas, including,	<p>The candidate describes the advantages and disadvantages of launching a life raft from the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leeward side including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. calmer water; and b. difficulty clearing the ships side; 2. Windward side including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. rougher water; and b. easier to clear the ship's side.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.5.A <i>PSC</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of recovering survival craft	Using a lifeboat in the water,	the candidate commands the recovery and proper securing of a lifeboat within 15 minutes.	The candidate issues the following orders and verifies that they have been properly carried out: 1. Bring the lifeboat under the falls; 2. Hook the lifeboat to the falls; 3. Raise the lifeboat to the embarkation deck; 4. Raise the lifeboat to its stowed position; and 5. Secure the lifeboat.
1.5.B <i>LTD</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of recovering survival craft	Using a survival craft in the water,	the candidate commands the recovery and proper securing of a survival craft within 15 minutes.	The candidate issues the following orders and verifies that they have been properly carried out: 1. Bring the survival craft under the falls; 2. Hook the survival craft to the falls; 3. Raise the survival craft to the embarkation deck; 4. Raise the survival craft to its stowed position; and 5. Secure the survival craft.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.6.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Action to be taken after leaving the ship	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes the steps that should be taken immediately after clearing the ship's side.	The candidate describes the steps that should be taken immediately after clearing the ship's side, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearing the vessel; 2. Picking up survivors; 3. Providing first aid; 4. Joining up with other rescue craft; 5. How to provide leadership and morale; 6. Salvaging debris; 7. Deploying or making ready equipment including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. signaling equipment; b. sea anchor; and c. engine; 8. Evaluating the situation; and 9. Preparing for rescue.
1.7.A <i>LTD</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of launching and recovering survival craft in a rough sea	Using a rescue boat properly stowed on a single-arm davit, mounted on a pier or a ship, when hearing an order in English to lower the rescue boat,	the candidate, acting as a member of the launch crew, prepares and launches a rescue boat.* <i>*Candidates should be rotated through all assigned tasks to determine if they have achieved competence.</i>	When ordered, the candidate correctly performs the following tasks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ready the rescue boat for launch; 2. Pass and secure the sea painter and control lines (if fitted); 3. Lower the outdrive; 4. Position the rescue boat at the embarkation site; and 5. Lower the boat on command.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.7.B <i>LTD</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of launching and recovering survival craft in a rough sea	Using a rescue boat, when hearing the order in English to man it,	the candidate acts as coxswain and operates the rescue boat during launch.	The candidate correctly: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boards the rescue boat; 2. When afloat, starts the engine; 3. Orders the release of the releasing hook, after control line (if fitted), forward control line (if fitted), and painter; and 4. Departs the ship's side at a shallow angle.
1.7.C <i>LTD</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of launching and recovering survival craft in a rough sea	Using a rescue boat, when hearing the order in English to man it,	the candidate acts as a member of the rescue boat crew and carries out all commands during launch.	When ordered, the candidate correctly: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boards the rescue boat; 2. Releases the releasing hook, after control line (if fitted), forward control line (if fitted), and painter; and 3. Fends off as ordered.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.7.D <i>LTD</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of launching and recovering survival craft in a rough sea	Given a rescue boat in the water connected to the fall of a single-arm davit, mounted on a pier or a ship, and when hearing orders in English to recover and stow a rescue boat,	the candidate acts as a member of the recovery crew and recovers and stows the rescue boat.* <i>*Candidates should be rotated through all assigned tasks to determine if they have achieved competence.</i>	When ordered, the candidate correctly performs the following tasks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lower the painter and control lines to the appropriate height above the water; 2. Tend fore and aft control lines (if fitted); 3. Lower the hook; 4. Hoist rescue boat to its disembarkation position while tending control lines (if fitted)*; 5. Disembark the rescue boat crew; 6. Swing the rescue boat to its stowed position; and 7. Secure the rescue boat. <p>NOTE: If it is unsafe or impractical for the rescue boat crew to ride the rescue boat to the disembarkation position, this task may be simulated.</p>

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.7.E <i>LTD</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of launching and recovering survival craft in a rough sea	Using a rescue boat in the water and connected to the fall of a single-arm davit, mounted on a pier or a ship, when hearing the order in English to return to the ship,	the candidate operates the rescue boat during recovery.	The candidate properly: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Positions the rescue boat under the sea painter eye; 2. Directs the crew to grab the sea painter; 3. Rides the painter until the boat is in the appropriate position; 4. Directs the crew to secure the sea painter on his/her command; 5. Directs crew to secure fore and aft control lines (if fitted); 6. Directs the crew to secure the releasing hook to the rescue boat bridle; and 7. Secures the engine.
1.8.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Dangers associated with use of on-load release devices	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes on-load release devices.	The candidate describes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. defining on-load release devices; 2. Procedures for activating; 3. Procedures to prevent unintentional activation; 4. Possible causes of unintentional activation; and 5. Possible consequences of unintentional or premature activation.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
1.9.A <i>BOTH</i> <i>EXAM</i>	Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Knowledge of maintenance procedures	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes survival craft maintenance.	The candidate describes survival craft maintenance, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equipment lubrication; 2. Equipment inventories; 3. Equipment testing, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. engine operation; b. operation of releasing mechanism; c. operation of davits; d. fitting of equipment such as hatches, dogs, etc; e. fuel levels; f. sprinkler systems, if fitted; g. recovery equipment; h. wires lubricated and running free; and i. power available; and 4. Area around launching and stowage area clear of debris and other material and equipment.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
2.1.A <i>PSC</i>	Operate a survival craft engine	Methods of starting and operating a survival craft engine and its accessories together with the use of the fire extinguisher provided	In a lifeboat equipped with an inboard engine,	the candidate starts and operates the lifeboat engine.	The candidate ensures that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The oil and cooling water levels are in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations; 2. Actions taken to start the engine are in accordance with the operator's manual for the type of engine, hand crank, electric, or hydraulic; and 3. The engine is properly operated in forward, neutral, and reverse gears.
2.1.B <i>LTD</i>	Operate a survival craft engine	Methods of starting and operating a survival craft engine and its accessories together with the use of the fire extinguisher provided	In a rescue boat equipped with an outboard engine,	the candidate starts and operates the rescue boat engine.	The candidate ensures that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The oil level is in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations; 2. Actions taken to start the engine are in accordance with the operator's manual; and 3. The engine is properly operated in forward, neutral, and reverse gears.
3.1.A <i>PSC</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Handling survival craft in rough weather	In a lifeboat in the water,	the candidate commands the lifeboat in the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. get underway; 2. steer by compass; 3. turn to port; 4. turn to starboard; 5. stop; and 6. go astern. 	The candidate ensures that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commands are issued in proper sequence; 2. Straight courses are $\pm 6^\circ$ of the direction given by the examiner; and 3. Oarsmen carry out commands together.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
3.1.B <i>PSC</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Handling survival craft in rough weather	In a lifeboat in the water,	the candidate responds properly and in unison with other oarsmen correctly to orders from the coxswain.	The candidate properly responds to the following commands: 1. Stand by the oars; 2. Out oars; 3. Stand by to give way; 4. Give way; 5. Oars; 6. Hold water; 7. Back water; 8. Way enough; and 9. Boat the oars.
3.2.A <i>PSC</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Use of painter, sea anchor and all other equipment	Using a SOLAS approved lifeboat,	the candidate demonstrates the correct use of the following equipment: 1. bilge pump; 2. rainwater collection device; 3. sea anchor; and 4. thermal protective aids (TPA).	The candidate ensures that the: 1. Bilge pump is readied for pumping; 2. Rainwater collection device is properly deployed; 3. Deployment of the sea anchor is properly simulated; and 4. TPA is correctly donned.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
3.3.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Apportionment of food and water in survival craft	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes the apportionment of food and water in survival craft.	The candidate describes the distribution of: 1. Water including: a. the need for water; b. the minimum ration of water per day; c. distribution of water; d. slowing body's output of water; e. collecting fresh water; f. the use of de-salinization tablets and equipment; and g. dangers of drinking sea water; and 2. Food including: a. the need for food; b. foods that require high amounts of water to process; c. catching food; d. distribution of food; e. packaging of food; and f. packaged food contamination once the seal is broken.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
3.4.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Action taken to maximize detectability and location of survival craft	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes the rigging of the radar reflector and SART.	The candidate describes: 1. Rigging a radar reflector to maximize its radar return; and 2. Positioning a SART to maximize its signal output.
3.5.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Method of helicopter rescue	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes helicopter rescues from a lifeboat or rescue boat.	The candidate describes helicopter rescues from a survival craft, including: 1. Visual and radio communications with the helicopter; 2. Effects of the helicopter downdraft on the survival craft; 3. Precautions when handling devices lowered from the helicopter; 4. Use of rescue devices that may be deployed from the helicopter; 5. Order of departure of survivors from survival craft; 6. Not securing devices from the helicopter to the survival craft; and 7. Information to pass on to helicopter crew upon rescue, such as: a. injuries aboard; and b. locations of other groups of survivors.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
3.5.B <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Method of helicopter rescue	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes helicopter rescues from a life raft and from the water.	<p>The candidate describes helicopter rescues from a life raft and from the water, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visual and radio communications with the helicopter: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. effects of the helicopter downdraft on the life raft including; b. the possibility of capsizing; c. the possible need to deflate the roof of the life raft; 2. Precautions when handling devices lowered from the helicopter; 3. Use of rescue devices that may be deployed from the helicopter; 4. Order of departure of survivors from life raft; 5. Not securing devices from the helicopter to the life raft; and 6. Information to pass on to helicopter crew upon rescue, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. injuries aboard; and b. locations of other groups of survivors.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
3.6.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Effects of hypothermia and its prevention; use of protective covers and garments, including immersion suits and thermal protective aids	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes hypothermia.	The candidate describes hypothermia, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Causes; 2. First aid for hypothermia; 3. Prevention of hypothermia; 4. Survival craft equipment to be used to prevent hypothermia; and 5. Personal protective equipment used to prevent or minimize hypothermia.
3.7.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Use of rescue boats and motor lifeboats for marshalling life rafts and rescue of survivors and persons in the sea	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes the post abandon ship use of rescue boats and survival craft.	The candidate describes the use of rescue boats and survival craft to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect survivors in the water, and bring them aboard using the equipment normally stowed in the survival craft or rescue boat; 2. Tow life rafts to the marshalling area without capsizing them; and 3. Conduct basic search and rescue patterns used to locate persons and other survival craft in the water.

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Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
3.8.A <i>BOTH EXAM</i>	Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Beaching survival craft	On a Coast Guard examination or in an approved or accepted course,	the candidate describes or selects the answer that describes landing a survival craft.	The candidate describes landing a survival craft including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Signs that land is nearby; 2. Scouting the shoreline to determine the best and safest area to beach; 3. Best time of day to beach a survival craft; 4. Attracting attention of any inhabitants; 5. Use of a sea anchor; 6. Beaching under oars or power; and 7. Beaching in heavy surf.
4.1.A <i>BOTH</i>	Use locating devices, including communication and signaling apparatus and pyrotechnics	Radio life-saving appliances carried in survival craft, including satellite EPIRBs and SARTs	On board a ship, in an approved or accepted course, or in a laboratory, using an unpowered or disabled EPIRB,	the candidate demonstrates proper operation of the EPIRB.	The candidate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs the operations needed to manually activate the EPIRB; and 2. Describes the indicators that would be activated to indicate that the EPIRB is operating. <p>NOTE: If the EPIRB has been placed into a test mode for this demonstration, the candidate will also describe the procedure to return the EPIRB back into service.</p>

Successful completion of these Assessment Guidelines will provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code. The use of these Assessment Guidelines is not mandatory and an alternative means of having achieved the standards of competence in the STCW Code will be considered. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.402(e), alternative guidelines must be submitted to the National Maritime Center and approved before use.

Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
4.1.B <i>BOTH</i>	Use locating devices, including communication and signaling apparatus and pyrotechnics	Radio life-saving appliances carried in survival craft, including satellite EPIRBs and SARTs	On board a ship, in an approved or accepted course, or in a laboratory, using an unpowered or disabled SART,	the candidate demonstrates proper operation of the SART.	<p>The candidate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs the operations needed to manually activate the SART; and 2. Describes the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. indicators that would be activated to indicate that the SART is operating; b. indicators that would be activated to indicate that the SART is responding to a vessels RADAR; c. the change in effectiveness of the SART as it is elevated; and d. the effect on a SART if a RADAR reflector is installed nearby and how to avoid this effect. <p>NOTE: If the SART has been placed into a test mode for this demonstration, the candidate will also describe the procedure to return the SART back into service.</p>

Successful completion of these Assessment Guidelines will provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code. The use of these Assessment Guidelines is not mandatory and an alternative means of having achieved the standards of competence in the STCW Code will be considered. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.402(e), alternative guidelines must be submitted to the National Maritime Center and approved before use.

Task No.	STCW Competence	Knowledge, Understanding, and Proficiency	Performance Condition	Performance Behavior	Performance Standard
4.2.A <i>BOTH</i>	Use locating devices, including communication and signaling apparatus and pyrotechnics	Pyrotechnic distress signals	On board a ship, in an course, or in a laboratory,	the candidate simulates using pyrotechnic distress signals.	The candidate simulates the use of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parachute flares, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the proper time to use them; and b. characteristics to consider when launching them; 2. Hand held flares, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the proper time to use them; and b. characteristics to consider when activating them; and 3. Orange smoke, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the proper time to use it; b. characteristics to consider when activating it; and c. its use during a helicopter rescue.
5.1.A <i>BOTH</i>	Apply first aid to survivors	Use of the first-aid kit and resuscitation techniques	<i>This KUP is satisfied if the candidate successfully completes approved or accepted Basic Training or presents evidence of maintaining the standards of competence in Basic Training as specified in 46 CFR 12.613(a)(3) and 12.615(a)(3).</i>		

Successful completion of these Assessment Guidelines will provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code. The use of these Assessment Guidelines is not mandatory and an alternative means of having achieved the standards of competence in the STCW Code will be considered. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.402(e), alternative guidelines must be submitted to the National Maritime Center and approved before use.

Record of Assessment
for
Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC)
and
Proficiency in Survival Craft-Limited
(PSC-Limited)

Print Name of Candidate

CH-1

Candidate's Mariner Reference Number

RECORD OF ASSESSMENT
PSC and PSC-Limited

NOTE TO QUALIFIED ASSESSOR(S): In performing your function as a Qualified Assessor, you may use your initials to indicate you have personally witnessed the demonstration of skill or ability by the person being assessed. The Assessment Guidelines in Enclosure (2) will provide satisfactory evidence of meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code. The use of these Assessment Guidelines is not mandatory and an alternative means of having achieved the standards of competence in the STCW Code will be considered as described in paragraph 10 of this NVIC. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.402, alternative Assessment Guidelines must be submitted to the National Maritime Center and approved before use.

STCW Competence	STCW Knowledge, Understanding and Proficiency	Task No.	Task Description	Assessor's Initials	Date of Assessment
Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	Methods of launching survival craft into a rough sea	1.4.A <i>PSC</i>	Command launching a lifeboat		
		1.4.B <i>LTD</i>	Command launching a rescue boat		
	Methods of recovering survival craft	1.5.A <i>PSC</i>	Command recovery and stowage of a lifeboat		
		1.5.B <i>LTD</i>	Command recovery and stowage of a survival craft		
	Methods of launching and recovering survival craft in a rough sea	1.7.A <i>LTD</i>	Prepare and launch a rescue boat		
		1.7.B <i>LTD</i>	Operate a rescue boat during launch		
		1.7.C <i>LTD</i>	Act as a member of rescue boat crew during launch		
		1.7.D <i>LTD</i>	Act as a member of rescue boat crew during recovery		
		1.7.E <i>LTD</i>	Operate a rescue boat during recovery		

Notes:

BOTH The assessment is required for both PSC and PSC-Limited endorsements.

PSC The assessment is only required for a PSC endorsement.

LTD The assessment is only required for a PSC-Limited endorsement.

Print Name of Candidate

Candidate's Mariner Reference Number

STCW Competence	STCW Knowledge, Understanding and Proficiency	Task No.	Task Description	Assessor's Initials	Date of Assessment
Operate a survival craft engine	Methods of starting and operating a survival craft engine and its accessories together with the use of the fire extinguisher provided	2.1.A <i>PSC</i>	Start and operate a lifeboat engine		
		2.1.B <i>LTD</i>	Start and operate a rescue boat engine		
Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	Handling survival craft in rough weather	3.1.A <i>PSC</i>	Command lifeboat operation		
		3.1.B <i>PSC</i>	Handle a lifeboat under oars		
	Use of painter, sea anchor and all other equipment	3.2.A <i>PSC</i>	Use lifeboat equipment		
Use locating devices, including communication and signaling apparatus and pyrotechnics	Radio life-saving appliances carried in survival craft, including satellite EPIRBs and SARTs	4.1.A <i>BOTH</i>	Operation of an EPIRB		
		4.1.B <i>BOTH</i>	Operation of a SART		
	Pyrotechnic distress signals	4.2.A <i>BOTH</i>	Use of pyrotechnic distress signals		

 Print Name of Candidate

 Candidate's Mariner Reference Number

**RECORD OF ASSESSMENT
PSC and PSC-Limited**

NOTE TO QUALIFIED ASSESSOR(S): In performing your function as a Qualified Assessor, you may use your initials to indicate you have personally witnessed the demonstration of skill or ability by the person being assessed. The Assessment Guidelines in Enclosure (2) will provide satisfactory evidence of meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-VI/2-1 of the STCW Code. The use of these Assessment Guidelines is not mandatory and an alternative means of having achieved the standards of competence in the STCW Code will be considered as described in paragraph 10 of this NVIC. In accordance with 46 CFR 10.402, alternative Assessment Guidelines must be submitted to the National Maritime Center and approved before use. After December 31, 2023, QAs must be approved by the National Maritime Center (46 CFR 10.107). Qualified military personnel will not need to be approved as QAs and may continue to sign assessments on military vessels after December 31, 2023.

Vessel Name	Gross Tonnage	Dates of Service		Assessor's Name	Assessor's Signature	Sample Initials of Assessor	Assessor Mariner Reference Number	Assessor Shipboard Position
		From	To					
M/V Scurius	8,892 GRT	7/7/2018	11/14/2018	Robert Onderbroek	<i>Robert Onderbroek</i>	<i>RO</i>	1234567	Chief Mate

Print Name of Candidate

Candidate's Mariner Reference Number

Excerpts from the International Convention on Standards of Training,
Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended

and

Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended

Notice: These excerpts are provided for background information. By themselves, they do not constitute Coast Guard policy.

The Manila Amendments to the annex to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978

Chapter I
General provisions

Regulation I/6

Training and assessment

Each party shall ensure that:

- .1 the training and assessment of seafarers, as required under the Convention, are administered, supervised and monitored in accordance with the provisions of section A-I/6 of the STCW Code; and
- .2 those responsible for the training and assessment of competence of seafarers, as required under the Convention, are appropriately qualified in accordance with the provisions of section A-I/6 of the STCW Code for the type and level of training and assessment involved.

Chapter VI
Emergency, occupational safety, security,
medical care and survival functions

Regulation VI/2

Mandatory minimum requirements for the issue of certificates of proficiency in survival craft, rescue boats and fast rescue boats

1 Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats shall:

- .1 be not less than 18 years of age;
- .2 have approved seagoing service of not less than 12 months or have attended an approved training course and have approved seagoing service of not less than six months; and
- .3 meet the standard of competence for certificates of proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats, set out in section A-VI/2, paragraphs 1 to 4 of the STCW Code.

* * * * *

**The Manila Amendments to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping
(STCW) Code**

Chapter I

Standards regarding general provisions

Section A-I/6

Training and assessment

1 Each Party shall ensure that all training and assessment of seafarers for certification under the Convention is:

- .1** structured in accordance with written programmes, including such methods and media of delivery, procedures, and course material as are necessary to achieve the prescribed standard of competence; and
- .2** conducted, monitored, evaluated and supported by persons qualified in accordance with paragraphs 4, 5 and 6.

2 Persons conducting in-service training or assessment on board ship shall only do so when such training or assessment will not adversely affect the normal operation of the ship and they can dedicate their time and attention to training or assessment.

Qualifications of instructors, supervisors and assessors*

3 Each Party shall ensure that instructors, supervisors and assessors are appropriately qualified for the particular types and levels of training or assessment of competence of seafarers either on board or ashore, as required under the Convention, in accordance with the provisions of this section.

In-service training

4 Any person conducting in-service training of a seafarer, either on board or ashore, which is intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention, shall:

- .1** have an appreciation of the training programme and an understanding of the specific training objectives for the particular type of training being conducted;
- .2** be qualified in the task for which training is being conducted; and
- .3** if conducting training using a simulator:
 - .3.1** have received appropriate guidance in instructional techniques involving the use of simulators; and
 - .3.2** have gained practical operational experience on the particular type of simulator being used.

* The relevant IMO Model Course(s) may be of assistance in the preparation of courses.

5 Any person responsible for the supervision of in-service training of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention shall have a full understanding of the training programme and the specific objectives for each type of training being conducted.

Assessment of competence

6 Any person conducting in-service assessment of competence of a seafarer, either on board or ashore, which is intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention, shall:

- .1** have an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of the competence to be assessed;
- .2** be qualified in the task for which the assessment is being made;
- .3** have received appropriate guidance in assessment methods and practice;
- .4** have gained practical assessment experience; and
- .5** if conducting assessment involving the use of simulators, have gained practical assessment experience on the particular type of simulator under the supervision and to the satisfaction of an experienced assessor.

Training and assessment within an institution

7 Each Party which recognizes a course of training, a training institution, or a qualification granted by a training institution, as part of its requirements for the issue of a certificate required under the Convention, shall ensure that the qualifications and experience of instructors and assessors are covered in the application of the quality standard provisions of section A-I/8. Such qualification, experience and application of quality standards shall incorporate appropriate training in instructional techniques, and training and assessment methods and practice, and shall comply with all applicable requirements of paragraphs 4 to 6.

Chapter VI

Standards regarding emergency, occupational safety, security,
medical care and survival functions

Section A-VI/2

Mandatory minimum requirements for the issue of certificates of proficiency in survival craft, rescue boats and fast rescue boats

Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats

Standard of competence

1 Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats shall be required to demonstrate competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/2-1.

2 The level of knowledge of the subjects listed in column 2 of table A-VI/2-1 shall be sufficient to enable the candidate to launch and take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat in emergency situations*.

* The relevant IMO Model Course(s) may be of assistance in the preparation of courses.

3 Training and experience to achieve the necessary level of theoretical knowledge, understanding and proficiency shall take account of the guidance given in part B of this Code.

4 Every candidate for certification shall be required to provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence through:

.1 demonstration of competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/2-1, in accordance with the methods for demonstrating competence and the criteria for evaluating competence tabulated in columns 3 and 4 of that table; and

.2 examination or continuous assessment as part of an approved training programme covering the material set out in column 2 of table A-VI/2-1.

5 Seafarers qualified in accordance with paragraph 4 in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats shall be required, every five years, to provide evidence of having maintained the required standards of competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/2-1.

6 Parties may accept onboard training and experience for maintaining the required standard of competence of table A-VI/2-1 in the following areas:

.1 take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch:

.1.1 interpret the markings on survival craft as to the number of persons they are intended to carry;

.1.2 give correct commands for launching and boarding survival craft, clearing the ship and handling and disembarking persons from survival craft;

.1.3 prepare and safely launch survival craft and clear the ship's side quickly; and

.1.4 safely recover survival craft and rescue boats;

.2 manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship:

.2.1 row and steer a boat and steer by compass;

.2.2 use individual items of equipment of survival crafts, except for pyrotechnics; and

.2.3 rig devices to aid location;

.3 use locating devices, including communication and signalling apparatus:

.3.1 use of portable radio equipment for survival craft; and

.4 apply first aid to survivors.

* * * * *

Table A-VI/2-1
*Specification of the minimum standard of competence in survival craft
and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats*

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch	<p>Construction and outfit of survival craft and rescue boats and individual items of their equipment</p> <p>Particular characteristics and facilities of survival craft and rescue boats</p> <p>Various types of device used for launching survival craft and rescue boats</p> <p>Methods of launching survival craft into a rough sea</p> <p>Methods of recovering survival craft</p> <p>Action to be taken after leaving the ship</p> <p>Methods of launching and recovering rescue boats in a rough sea</p> <p>Dangers associated with use of on-load release devices</p> <p>Knowledge of maintenance procedures</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to:</p> <p>.1 right an inverted liferaft while wearing a lifejacket</p> <p>.2 interpret the markings on survival craft as to the number of persons they are intended to carry</p> <p>.3 give correct commands for launching and boarding survival craft, clearing the ship and handling and disembarking persons from survival craft</p> <p>.4 prepare and safely launch survival craft and clear the ship's side quickly and operate off-load and on-load release devices</p> <p>.5 safely recover survival craft and rescue boats, including the proper resetting of both off-load and on-load release devices</p> <p>using: inflatable liferaft and open or enclosed lifeboat with inboard engine or approved simulator training, where appropriate</p>	<p>Preparation, boarding and launching of survival craft are within equipment limitations and enable survival craft to clear the ship safely</p> <p>Initial actions on leaving the ship minimize threat to survival</p> <p>Recovery of survival craft and rescue boats is within equipment limitations</p> <p>Equipment is operated in accordance with manufacturers' instructions for release and resetting</p>
Operate a survival craft engine	Methods of starting and operating a survival craft engine and its accessories together with the use of the fire extinguisher provided	Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to start and operate an inboard engine fitted in an open or enclosed lifeboat	Propulsion is available and maintained as required for manoeuvring

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Manage survivors and survival craft after abandoning ship	<p>Handling survival craft in rough weather</p> <p>Use of painter, sea-anchor and all other equipment</p> <p>Apportionment of food and water in survival craft</p> <p>Action taken to maximize detectability and location of survival craft</p> <p>Method of helicopter rescue</p> <p>Effects of hypothermia and its prevention; use of protective covers and garments, including immersion suits and thermal protective aids</p> <p>Use of rescue boats and motor lifeboats for marshalling liferafts and rescue of survivors and persons in the sea</p> <p>Beaching survival craft</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to:</p> <p>.1 row and steer a boat and steer by compass</p> <p>.2 use individual items of equipment of survival craft</p> <p>.3 rig devices to aid location</p>	Survival management is appropriate to prevailing circumstances and conditions
Use locating devices, including communication and signalling apparatus and pyrotechnics	<p>Radio life-saving appliances carried in survival craft, including satellite EPIRBs and SARTs</p> <p>Pyrotechnic distress signals</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to:</p> <p>.1 use portable radio equipment for survival craft</p> <p>.2 use signalling equipment, including pyrotechnics</p>	Use and choice of communication and signalling apparatus is appropriate to prevailing circumstances and conditions

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Apply first aid to survivors	<p>Use of the first-aid kit and resuscitation techniques</p> <p>Management of injured persons, including control of bleeding and shock</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration of ability to deal with injured persons both during and after abandonment, using first-aid kit and resuscitation techniques</p>	<p>Identification of the probable cause, nature and extent of injuries or condition is prompt and accurate</p> <p>Priority and sequence of treatment minimizes any threat to life</p>

**GUIDANCE REGARDING PROVISIONS OF THE ANNEX TO
THE STCW CONVENTION
PART B**

Chapter I

Guidance regarding general provisions

Section B-I/6

Guidance regarding training and assessment

Qualifications of instructors and assessors

1 Each Party should ensure that instructors and assessors are appropriately qualified and experienced for the particular types and levels of training or assessment of competence of seafarers, as required under the Convention, in accordance with the guidelines in this section.

In-service training and assessment

2 Any person, on board or ashore, conducting in-service training of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention should have received appropriate guidance in instructional techniques*.

3 Any person responsible for the supervision of in-service training of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention should have appropriate knowledge of instructional techniques and of training methods and practice.

4 Any person, on board or ashore, conducting an in-service assessment of the competence of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention should have:

- .1** received appropriate guidance in assessment methods and practice* ; and
- .2** gained practical assessment experience under the supervision and to the satisfaction of an experienced assessor.

5 Any person responsible for the supervision of the in-service assessment of competence of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention should have a full understanding of the assessment system, assessment methods and practice*.

* * * * *

Chapter VI

Guidance regarding emergency, occupational safety, security,
medical care and survival functions

Section B-VI/2

Guidance regarding certification for proficiency in survival craft, rescue boats and fast rescue boats

1 Before training is commenced, the requirement of medical fitness, particularly regarding eyesight and hearing, should be met by the candidate.

* The relevant IMO Model Course(s) may be of assistance in the preparation of courses.

2 The training should be relevant to the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), as amended.

3 Parties may also accept onboard training and experience (such as participation in drills) for maintaining the required standard of competence of table A-VI/2-1, in the areas outlined in section A-VI/2, paragraphs 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.2.1, and 12.1.5. Administrations should bear in mind that onboard training in these areas can only be carried out under good weather conditions and port regulations permitting.