



**United States Coast Guard**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



**CG-CVC**  
**Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance**

**MI Notice 05-12**  
**July 19, 2012**

## **Marine Inspection Notice**

### **MANNING GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL SHIPS OPERATED BY THE STATE MARITIME ACADEMIES (SMA)**

Public nautical school ships, except vessels of the Navy or Coast Guard, are required to meet U.S. Coast Guard regulatory requirements. One aspect of these requirements is the safe manning levels set by the OCMI to ensure that all ships are sufficiently and efficiently manned (*see* 46 CFR 167.60-15). These requirements exist to ensure the safety of the cadets and crew, the safe and secure operation of the State Maritime Academy (SMA) vessels, and the protection of the marine environment. Unless specifically authorized by the USCG and MARAD, the training vessels may not operate without a full crew as specified by the current Certificates of Inspection (COI). To promote an enhanced degree of COI consistency across the SMA fleet, OCMI's are directed to reference Marine Safety Manual (MSM) Volume III, Chapter 21.J. for additional guidance.

It has recently come to the attention of the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance (CG-CVC) that SMA cadets have been employed to fill compulsory rating (e.g. Able Seamen) positions prescribed by the respective COI for various Public Nautical School Ships. Generally, cadets serving on SMA vessels may only serve in the capacity as a cadet, with the exception of those qualified and fulfilling lifeboatman requirements. Cadets designated and filling positions as lifeboatmen must hold endorsements as lifeboatman, and if appropriate, STCW endorsements for Proficiency in Survival Craft.

Unless expressly authorized and alternatively endorsed on a valid merchant mariner credential (MMC), cadets are not authorized to fill any other position required by the COI. Certain academy training programs have been approved to allow cadets to qualify for rating endorsements restricted to service on a specific SMA vessel. However, cadets cannot fill a position required by the COI unless they hold a valid MMC duly endorsed to reflect the rating in accordance with the program approval issued by the NMC.

Ratings in the deck and engine department on board public national school ships are assigned to assist the officer in charge of the watch, to act as supervisors of cadets, and to fulfill associated statutory requirements (*see* 46 U.S.C. 8702). An appropriately certificated officer with a valid MMC, carried in excess of those required by the COI,

may fill a COI rating position (e.g. Able Seamen) so long as there is no conflict with other manning provisions stipulated by the COI. The station bill, crew list, and shipping articles (as appropriate) should accurately reflect the current manning arrangement and watch/duty schedule for the subject voyage.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to LT Cory Heard, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Commandant (CG-CVC) at 202-372-1208.

<u>Vessel</u>	<u>IMO/VIN</u>	<u>SMA</u>
STATE OF MICHIGAN	8835451	Great Lakes Maritime
EMPIRE STATE	5264510	SUNY Maritime
STATE OF MAINE	8835217	Maine Maritime
T S KENNEDY	6621662	Massachusetts Maritime
GOLDEN BEAR	8834407	California Maritime
GENERAL RUDDER	8835463	Texas Maritime