

Mariner Training Provider Course Approvals

This bulletin is an effort to provide awareness to training providers and the industry as a whole of an increased inventory of course approval requests at the National Maritime Center (NMC). The volume of Course Approval Requests awaiting evaluation has grown over the last several months such that the NMC is averaging approximately 65 calendar days to complete an approval. The current inventory includes 200 requests with 50 requests having been awaiting evaluation more than 90 days. This combined with the approaching STCW implementation date has led us to take several actions:

- We are prioritizing course approval requests, placing a higher priority on those courses that fill an STCW gap-closing requirement as discussed in [Navigation Vessel Inspection Circular \(NVIC\) 02-14](#) and those STCW courses that meet other newly implemented requirements such as refresher or revalidation training.
- We are reviewing internal processes and options to increase our throughput and drive the inventory down.
- We will work with providers who have submitted renewal requests and are nearing expiration to prevent courses from expiring while awaiting our review.

46 CFR Subpart D contains the regulatory requirements for course approvals. Coast Guard policy is contained in NVIC 03-14, Guidelines for Approval of Training Courses and Programs. We recently published the [Top Reasons](#) why course/program approvals require additional information on the [Training Approvals](#) page of our website. Training providers are encouraged to review this information prior to submitting requests in order to streamline the review process.

We encourage training providers to communicate recommendations, concerns, and issues with the NMC using the NMCCourses@uscg.mil e-mail address. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work through the current inventory. Additional updates will be provided as needed.

If you have general questions or feedback regarding Course Approvals, please check the [NMC Website](#), or contact the NMC by e-mail at IASKNMC@uscg.mil or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

Sincerely,

//K. R. Martin//

Kirsten R. Martin
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Commanding Officer