

## National Maritime Center – U.S. Postal Service (USPS) Shipping Labels and Extended Processing Timelines

The National Maritime Center (NMC) is providing this advisory regarding the use of customer-provided, prepaid U.S. Postal Service (USPS) shipping labels for credential delivery.

Due to current application inventory levels and extended processing timelines, applications may not be completed for several months after submission. In accordance with USPS shipping policy, prepaid shipping labels should be used within 7 days of purchase and no more than 30 days after purchase. In most cases, mariner credentials mailed using prepaid USPS shipping labels older than 30 days will not be delivered.

Therefore, the NMC will apply the following procedures when processing and shipping credentials:

- To ensure delivery, USPS shipping labels older than 30 days **will not** be used.
- Credentials associated with expired labels will be shipped via **USPS First-Class Mail**.
- The NMC **will not** request replacement labels or delay issuance pending receipt of a new label.

Mariners are **strongly encouraged** not to submit USPS shipping labels with their applications and to consider current processing timelines when choosing an [alternate shipping method](#). Mariners are also encouraged to monitor the [NMC website](#) for updates regarding processing times, REC operations, and policy adjustments as operations stabilize. For ongoing updates, sign up for the NMC list server by scanning the QR code below.

For questions, contact our Customer Service Center via the [NMC online chat system](#), by e-mailing [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil), or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

Sincerely,

/P. A. Drayer/

Patrick A. Drayer  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Officer in Charge, Marine Inspections

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