

Renewal Exams

Renewal Exams are administered in accordance with [46 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 10.227 Requirements for Renewal](#):

- (i) The applicant must either—
 - (A) Present evidence of at least one year of sea service during the past five years;
 - (B) Pass a comprehensive, open-book exercise covering the general subject matter contained in appropriate sections of subpart (I) of this part;
 - (C) Complete an approved refresher training course; or
 - (D) Present evidence of employment in a position closely related to the operation, construction, or repair of vessels (either deck or engineer as appropriate) for at least three years during the past five years. An applicant for a deck license or officer endorsement with this type of employment must also demonstrate knowledge on an applicable Rules of the Road open-book exercise.

Renewal Modules are take home exams issued to the mariner by the Regional Exam Centers (RECs). It is recommended that completed exams be returned to the REC for grading within 30 days in order to assure the exam cycle, including retakes, is completed within 90 days.

In accordance with [46 CFR 10.227 \(e\)](#): Applicants for renewal who do not meet the sea service or exam requirements may be issued a Document of Continuity. Documents of continuity do not expire and are issued solely to maintain an individual's eligibility for renewal. A document of continuity does not entitle an individual to serve as a merchant mariner. A holder of a document of continuity may obtain a properly endorsed, valid merchant mariner credential (MMC) at any time by satisfying the requirements for renewal.