

Frequently Asked Questions: Designated Examiners and Qualified Assessors

1. What is a Designated Examiner? How do I become an approved Designated Examiner?

- a. A Designated Examiner (DE) is a person who has been trained or instructed in techniques of training or assessment and is otherwise qualified to evaluate whether an applicant has achieved the level of competence required to hold a merchant mariner credential (MMC) endorsement. To become a DE for towing officer assessment records (TOARs), an applicant must have documentary evidence to establish—
 - (1) Experience, training, or instruction in assessment techniques on towing vessels;
 - (2) Qualifications on towing vessels in the task for which the assessment is being conducted; and
 - (3) Possession of the level of endorsement on towing vessels, or other professional credential, which provides proof that he or she has attained a level of qualification equal or superior to the relevant level of knowledge, skills, and abilities described in the training objectives.
 - (c) Documentary evidence may be in the form of performance evaluations, which include an evaluation of effectiveness in on-the-job organization and delivery of training, or a certificate of successful completion from an “assessor training” course.
- b. If you would like to become a DE, the information is found on the [Designated Examiners](#) tab of the Training & Assessment webpage.
- c. Please refer to [46 CFR 10.405](#) and [NVIC 03-16](#) for complete requirements.

2. What is a Qualified Assessor? How do I become an approved Qualified Assessor?

- a. A Qualified Assessor (QA) is a person who is qualified to evaluate, for STCW endorsements, whether an applicant has demonstrated the level of competence in the task for which the assessment is being made. This person must be individually approved by the Coast Guard or through a Coast Guard approved or accepted course or program of training. To become a QA, an applicant must have documentary evidence to establish—
 - (1) Have experience, training, or instruction in assessment techniques;
 - (2) Be qualified in the task(s) for which the assessment is being conducted; and
 - (3) Hold or have held the level of 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 for the task to be assessed.
- b. If you would like to become a QA, the information is found on the [Qualified Assessors](#) tab of the Training & Assessment webpage.
- c. Please refer to [46 CFR 10.405](#) and [NVIC 19-14](#) for complete requirements.