

Frequently Asked Questions: Policy and Regulations

1. Do I have to meet the requirements for Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) in order to receive a domestic officer endorsement?

No. If no STCW is held, employment may be limited. For vessels and persons subject to STCW, see [Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Part 15, Subpart K](#).

2. May I use the previous policy letters for STCW as Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch (OICNW), Master or Chief Mate 3000 Gross Tons or More, Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch (RFPNW), Ratings Forming Part of a Engineer Watch (RFPEW), and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other than Fast Rescue Boats (PSC)?

No. The January 1, 2017, deadline was extended once but is now expired. All applicants could use the previous model assessments if they were signed not later than December 31, 2019, AND were submitted to the Coast Guard as part of a complete application no later than June 30, 2020. For any updates or changes, visit the applicable Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circulars (NVICs) at the [Coast Guard NVIC webpage](#).

3. I applied for an STCW endorsement in the past and my application was not approved because I did not take all of the courses required at the time. My application has now "timed out" or expired. Do I need to re-apply for the STCW endorsement?

Yes. A mariner whose application has "timed out" or who was denied must re-apply by submitting a new application. New requirements in effect as of January 1, 2017, must be met that may require a new Record of Assessments and updated Coast Guard approved training. [NVIC 03-14 Guidelines for Approval of Training Courses and Programs](#) provides information for the validity period of courses. The assessments from the current NVICs do not expire.

4. I previously held an STCW 1978 and would like to apply for an STCW 1978, as amended. What do I need to do?

You must meet the current STCW requirements for the international endorsement sought.

5. Where can I find the requirements to obtain an STCW?

[Title 46 CFR Part 11](#), [Part 12](#), and [Part 13](#) contain sea service, training, and required Standards of Competence for all STCW officer and rating capacities. Additional guidance for each capacity, including the Record of Assessments to document competencies, are located in separate [NVICs](#).

The United States Coast Guard periodically posts new policy, NVICs, and announcements concerning credentialing. In order to keep up to date you may sign up to receive notifications on the [NMC List Server](#).

The following lists are not all-inclusive. Be sure to review [all current NVICs](#), including NVICs covering topics such as Towing Vessel Endorsements or High Speed Craft.

Support Ratings

- NVIC 04-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescues Boats
- NVIC 05-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats
- NVIC 06-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Rating Forming Part Of A Navigational Watch
- NVIC 07-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Rating Forming Part Of An Engineering Watch
- NVIC 14-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Able Seafarer – Deck
- NVIC 18-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsement as Able Seafarer – Engine
- NVIC 24-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Electro-technical Rating On Vessels Powered By Main Propulsion Machinery Of 750 kW/1,000 HP Or More
- NVIC 22-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Officers and Ratings on Oil, Chemical and Liquefied Gas Tank Vessels

Deck and Engineer Officers

- NVIC 10-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Master or Chief Mate on Vessels Of 3,000 GT or More (Management Level)
- NVIC 11-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Master or Chief Mate on Vessels of 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT (Management Level)
- NVIC 12-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Officer In Charge Of A Navigational Watch on Vessels Of 500 GT or More (Operational Level)
- NVIC 02-18 Guidelines On Qualification For STCW Endorsements As Officer In Charge Of A Navigational Watch Of Vessels Of Less Than 500 GT (Oceans)
- NVIC 03-18 Guidelines On Qualification For STCW Endorsements As Master Of Vessels Of Less Than 500 Gross Tons (GT) (Oceans)
- NVIC 13-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Master or Officer In Charge Of A Navigational Watch Of Vessels Of Less Than 500 GT Limited To Near-Coastal Waters (Management Level)
- NVIC 15-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Chief Engineer Officer and Second Engineer Officer On Ships Powered By Main Propulsion Machinery Of 3,000 kW/4,000 HP Propulsion Power Or More (Management Level)
- NVIC 16-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Chief Engineer Officer and Second Engineer Officer On Ships Powered By Main Propulsion Machinery Of 750 kW/1,000 HP Or More And Less Than 3,000 Kw/4,000 HP Propulsion Power (Management Level)
- NVIC 17-14 Guidelines on Qualification for STCW Endorsement as Officer In Charge Of An Engineering Watch In A Manned Engine room or Designated Duty Engineer In A Periodically Unmanned Engine room On Vessels Powered By Main Propulsion Machinery Of 750 kW/1,000 HP Propulsion Power Or More (Operational Level)
- NVIC 03-16 Guidelines for Credentialing Officers on Towing Vessels (National)

Offshore Supply Vessels (includes National endorsement information)

- NVIC 01-17 Guidelines on Qualification for National and STCW Endorsements for Service as Mate on Offshore Supply Vessels
- NVIC 02-17 Guidelines on Qualifications for National and STCW Engineering Officer Endorsements for Service as Chief Engineer on Offshore Supply Vessels
- NVIC 03-17 Guidelines on Qualifications for National and STCW Endorsements for Service as Master and Chief Mate on Offshore Supply Vessels
- NVIC 04-17 Guidelines on Qualifications for National and STCW Endorsements for Service as Assistant Engineer and Officer In Charge Of An Engineering Watch On Offshore Supply Vessels

Miscellaneous

- NVIC 03-14 Guidelines for Approval of Training Courses and Programs
- NVIC 19-14 Policy on Qualified Assessors
- NVIC 20-14 Guidelines for Qualification for High-Speed Craft Type-Rating Endorsements
- NVIC 21-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Vessel Security Officers, Vessel Personnel with Designated Security Duties, and Security Awareness
- NVIC 22-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Officers and Ratings on Oil, Chemical and Liquefied Gas Tank Vessels
- NVIC 08-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements in Basic Training (Formerly Basic Safety Training)
- NVIC 09-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Advanced Firefighting
- NVIC 23-14 Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Electro-Technical Officer On Vessels Powered By Main Propulsion Machinery Of 750 kW/1,000 HP Or More