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#### Sea Service

What counts as sea service?

What counts as a day?

When can I claim time-and-a-half credit?

How do I document sea service?

**Completing the Form 719-S (Small Vessel Sea Service Form)** 

Sea Service Letters (Samples/Instructions):

**General Sea Service Letter** 

Tankerman PIC Sea Service & Transfer Letter

Tankerman PIC (Barge) Sea Service & Transfer Letter

**Qualified Instructor Letter** 



**DISCLAIMER:** This tool is not a formal evaluation or a guarantee of how sea service will be ultimately credited after a Coast Guard evaluation. This information is meant as an aid in preparing a mariner credential application.

#### What counts as sea service?

- Sea service is a measure of a mariner's lifetime experience on boats, whether recreational, commercial, or military. It may be counted from the day a mariner turns age 16 and accumulates over his or her lifetime.
- A day of sea service is any day that a mariner served upon a vessel in an assigned position in either the deck or engineering department of a vessel (not a passenger). The position may include duties such as: handling lines, being a lookout, steering the boat, and other navigational or propulsion functions.
- Sea service never expires and may be reused when applying for new endorsements. It is the mariner's responsibility to keep copies of all sea service records.

#### What counts as a "day"?

- A "day," as defined by the regulations, is 8 hours of watch-standing or day-working, not to include overtime.
- **Only on vessels of less than 100 gross registered tons (GRT)**: Credit for a full day will **only** be given for service of 4 hours or more (See <u>46 CFR 10.107</u>, definition of "Day"). No credit will ever be given for days in which less than 4 hours were served.
- For the purposes of <u>defining</u> sea service requirements, the Coast Guard considers 1 month as 30 days, and 1 year as 12 months (or 360 days).



#### When can I claim time-and-a-half credit?

- For most vessels, no additional credit may be received for periods served over 8 hours. However, on vessels authorized by <u>46 U.S.C. 8104</u>, <u>46 CFR 15.705</u>, and the vessel's manning requirements to operate a two-watch system, a 12-hour working day <u>may in some cases</u> be creditable as 1 1/2 days of service.
- If you work on a vessel operating with a Coast Guard authorized six-on-six-off watch system with only two watch standing officers (i.e., certain crew boats, supply boats, towboats and some commercial fishing boats), you may claim 1 1/2 days for each 12-hour day worked.
- For more information on this topic, please see <u>12 Hour Day / Time-and-a-Half Credit</u>.

#### How do I document sea service?

- *To document service aboard vessels of less than 200 GRT:* Applicants may use the <u>CG 719-S (Small Vessel Sea Service Form)</u> or they may submit a <u>letter</u> which includes the same information required on the Small Vessel Sea Service Form.
  - Remember that you must complete a <u>separate</u> Small Vessel Sea Service Form for <u>each vessel</u> you served aboard.
  - If you are the owner of a vessel on which you are claiming service, you must also submit proof of ownership for that vessel. Acceptable proof of ownership may include:
    - 1. Title
    - 2. Registration (state registered vessels)
    - 3. Certificate of Documentation (U.S. Coast Guard registered vessels)
    - 4. Proof of insurance (which clearly identifies the vessel)
    - 5. Bill(s) of sale.
  - If you are signing as the owner of a corporation that owns the vessel, you must include a copy of proof of ownership of the company, such as a copy of the articles of incorporation. (See <u>46 CFR 10.232</u>.)
  - Photographs or imagery of vessels are <u>**not**</u> acceptable as proof of ownership.
  - If you are not the owner of the vessel, someone with knowledge of your service **must** attest to its accuracy and validity in the proper location on the form by signing it and completing the associated required information.

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- *To document service on any vessel of over 200 GRT*: Applicants may submit any of the following documents <u>signed</u> by an appropriate official, an individual holding an officer endorsement, an owner or an employer <u>who is not the applicant seeking the credit</u> (see <u>46 CFR 10.232</u>):
  - 1. Certificates of discharge
  - 2. Letters on official letterhead indicating the vessel details, dates of service, waters of service, and position(s) served in
  - 3. Other official documents such as service logs or discharge books from marine companies.



# COMPLETING THE FORM 719-S (Small Vessel Sea Service Form)

Below is an outline of the Small Vessel Sea Service Form. Please read the form carefully. Be sure to complete all sections, as required. Failure to complete the required information will result in rejection of the form and the sea service credit sought on that form.

**SECTION I:** This is where a mariner documents his or her personal information, boat information and a description of the waters on which his or her experience was obtained. Please note: Individual forms must be completed for each vessel on which service is claimed. A single form claiming service on multiple vessels will not be accepted.

Section I: Applicant Information (Note: Complete One Form Per Vessel)									
Name Last	First Middle		Reference Number (if applicable		<i>cable)</i> S	le) Social Security Number			
Vessel Name			Official Numb	per or State Registration N	umber				
	Length		Width (if know	/n)	Depth <i>(if kn</i>	own)			
Vessel Gross Tons	Feet Inc	ches	Feet	Inches	Feet				
Propulsion (Motor/Steam/Gas Turbir	ıe/Sail/Aux Sail)	]	Served As (M	/aster/Mate/Operator/Deck	(hand/Engin	e etc.)			
Name of Body or Bodies of Water U	non Which Vessel was Und	lerway (Geograph	hic Locations)						

- This form is only for vessels 200 GRT and less. Service on vessels of greater than 200 GRT should be reflected in an approved alternate method.
- <u>Official Number or State Registration Number</u>: An applicant <u>must</u> provide an official number or state registration number. Please do not try to "make up" a number from identifying information on a document pertaining to the vessel that you hold. This practice will result in your form being rejected. If you have questions as to what numbers are the vessel's identifying numbers, please call our <u>Customer Service Center</u> for assistance.
- <u>Vessel Name:</u> If the vessel is not documented, you must provide a name and this form <u>**must**</u> be attested to by a party other than the applicant. If the vessel does not have a documented name, the vessel name box may be left empty.

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- <u>Vessel Gross Tons</u>: To receive credit toward endorsements with tonnage limitations of over 25 GRT, the applicant <u>must</u> supply the GRT of the vessel on which they are claiming service. If unsure of the GRT of the vessel, please be sure to provide the width, length, and depth of the vessel on this form. All three measurements are required so that displacement may be calculated for you.
- <u>Propulsion</u>: For auxiliary sail endorsements, service aboard vessels with sail or auxiliary sail propulsion must be demonstrated. For service to be credited toward these endorsements, the propulsion type must be specifically listed.
- <u>Served As</u>: The applicant must indicate which department(s) he or she served in. There are only three service departments aboard a vessel: deck, steward, and engine. An applicant must not serve in a position for which manning is required by the Coast Guard without the corresponding endorsement or they will not receive credit for the service.

If multiple departments are indicated without a specific breakdown of time served in each department, then overall service will be split equally between the departments listed. (Example: One hundred days submitted as "cook and deckhand" will result in a credit of 50 days in the steward department and 50 days in the deck department).

• <u>Name of Body or Bodies of Water Upon Which Vessel Was Underway</u>: The applicant must provide a written description of the waters on which they served. This may be a general description (i.e., "Atlantic Ocean") but must correspond to the breakdown provided in <u>Section III</u>.

To receive credit toward endorsements with Great Lakes or near coastal privileges, the applicant <u>must</u> supply a description of the specific waters on which they are claiming service. All descriptions of waters which do not qualify as Great Lakes or near coastal are considered "inland" for the purposes of evaluation.

- Leaving required boxes blank.
- Claiming "owner" as position served.
- Claiming engineer service on a vessel without an engine room.
- Not including all requested vessel measurements.
- Claiming service on a vessel of over 200 GRT on this form.
- Claiming Great Lakes or near coastal waters credit when no matching written description is provided.



- Providing identifying information for someone other than the applicant (usually the information of a person attesting to service).
- Not providing a reference number and/or Social Security Number.
- Not listing an actual state registry number or official number of a vessel.

**SECTION II:** This is the record of underway sea service experience. The top part of this section is a worksheet to record a breakdown of the estimated days by year and calendar month. The bottom part of this section contains boxes to record totals of the information from the top of this section.

Section II: Rec	ord of Underwa	y Service								
	the appropriate mont	h, write in the numbe	er of days	you served	d for that year <i>(you c</i>	an show more than o	one year)			
Jan	uary	Febr	ruary		Ma	rch	April			
Year	Days	Year Day		ays	Year	Days	Year	Days		
м	ay	Ju	ine		Ju	ily	August			
Year	Days	Year	D	ays	Year	Days	Year	Days		
Septe	September		October			mber	December			
Year	Days	Year	D	ays	Year	Days	Year	Days		
Total number of da	ys served on this ve	ssel:		Number of days served on Great Lakes:						
Average hours underway (per day)?					Number of days served on waters shoreward of the boundary line as defined in 46 CFR Part 7:					
Average distance offshore:					Number of days served on waters seaward of the boundary line as defined in 46 CFR Part 7:					

• Use this portion of the form to document the number of days in each month and the corresponding year in which you are claiming service credit.

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- Take your time and complete each block individually and accurately for each year that you served. Use multiple forms for periods claimed of more than 5 years.
- Average hours underway (per day) can be <u>no less than 4 hours for credit to be</u> <u>awarded</u>.
- You must specify the number of days served on each route (inland, Great Lakes, and/or near coastal).
- The first box, **1**, should be the total number of days claimed on this particular form. It should equal the sum of all the days indicated in the top part of this section. It should also equal the sum total of days claimed in boxes **2**, **3**, and **4**.
- Box **2** will contain a breakdown of the number of days you are claiming service on waters of the Great Lakes.
- Box **3** will contain a breakdown of the number of days you are claiming service on inland waters (i.e., **shoreward** of the boundary line).
- Box **4** will contain a breakdown of the number of days you are claiming service on near coastal waters (i.e., **<u>seaward</u>** of the boundary line).

- Using lines, arrows, or other shorthand, instead of individually writing down days served.
- Attempting to cover periods of more than 5 years on one form.
- Claiming a greater number of days served in a month than the number of days that month has in it. (Example: Claiming 31 days of service in February.)
- Claiming the same periods of time served on forms for different vessels. Coast Guard policy allows mariners to only claim the maximum number of days in each month across all vessels served. For example, do not indicate 25 days underway for the month of March 2012 on "VESSEL A" AND 25 days underway for the month of March 2012 on "VESSEL B." There are only 31 total days in March.

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# **SECTION III:** This is where the applicant attests to the accuracy of his/her documented service.

Section III: Signature and Verification - Applicant Read Before Signing!								
I certify that I have served on the above vessel as stated. I am making this statement in order that I, the applicant, may obtain a credential to operate a vessel under the provisions of Title 46 CFR, as applicable. I understand that if I make any false or fraudulent statement in this certification of service, I may be subject to a fine or imprisonment of up to five (5) years or both (18 U.S.C. 1001).								
Signature of Applicant		Date (MM/DD/YYYY)						
X								
NOTE: • The Owner, Operator, or Master must complete the remainder of this form. • If you are the owner of the vessel, proof of ownership must be provided.								
Owner, Operator or Master Read Before Signing! I certify that the above individual has served on the above vessel as stated. I am making this statement in order that the applicant may obtain a credential to operate a vessel under the provisions of Title 46 CFR, as applicable. I understand that if I make any false or fraudulent statement in this certification of service, I may be subject to a fine or imprisonment of up to five (5) years or both (18 U.S.C. 1001).								
Signature and Title of Person Attesting to Experience		Date (MM/DD/YYYY)						
X								
Owner's, Operator's, or Master's Name		Owner's, Operator's, or Master's address and phone number						
Last First	Middle	Street Address						
Email Address (Optional)		City State Zip Code Phone						

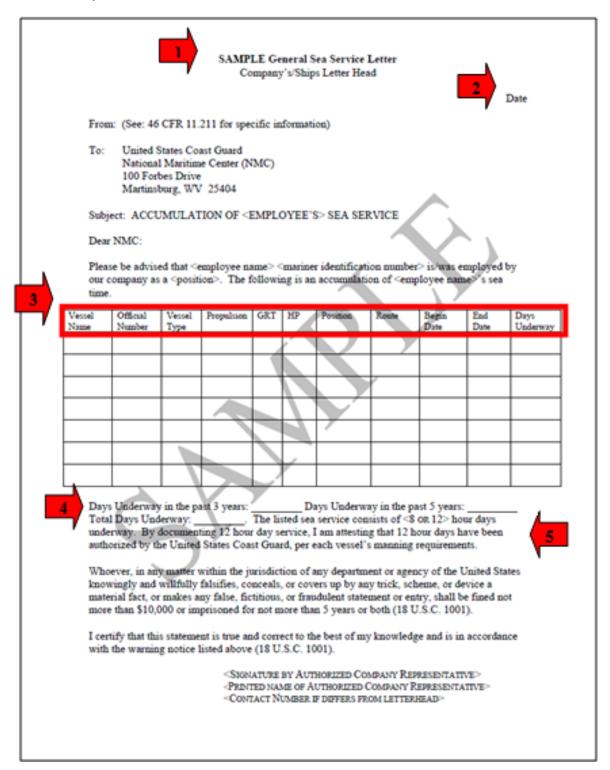
- Mariners <u>must</u> complete the signature and date of the applicant. If the Small Vessel Sea Service Form you are using is a newer form, this signature and verification box may be located on a second page.
- If you are the owner of the vessel, you must also submit proof of ownership with the Small Vessel Sea Service Form. For questions regarding proof of ownership, see <u>How do</u> <u>I document sea service?</u>.
- If you do not own the vessel, you cannot attest to your own service—even if you are serving as master. You will need to have an owner, operator, or another master attest to the days underway by signing this section and providing their address and phone number.

- Not signing and dating each form submitted.
- Printing the applicant's name instead of signing as the applicant.
- The applicant signing as person attesting to experience.
- Not providing legible required contact information for the person attesting.
- Not providing an address and/or phone contact for the person attesting.
- The applicant failing to sign after obtaining the signature of someone to attest to their service.

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(1) **GENERAL SEA SERVICE LETTER:** To document sea service experience in a sea service letter, read the examples below carefully and provide letters formatted consistently with the information below.



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- 1. The letter **<u>must be on letterhead</u>** from either the company that employed you or the vessel on which you served.
- 2. Include the date the letter was written.

NOTE: If you are presently serving on the vessel, the date indicated will be used as the end date of your service for evaluation purposes.

- 3. For each vessel, the letter must provide:
  - vessel name
  - official number
  - vessel type
  - propulsion type
  - tonnage
  - engine horsepower (when applicable)
  - the beginning date of service
  - the end date of service
  - number of underway days.

#### <u>This information must be provided for each vessel on which you serve and for</u> <u>which you are utilizing this letter to claim service.</u>

- For any officer endorsement, the letter must also supply a breakdown of the number of days of service within 3 years of the date of the letter. For <u>any Tankerman</u> endorsement or renewal of any endorsement, the letter must supply a breakdown of the number of days of service within 5 years preceding the date of the letter.
- 5. The letter must indicate whether the service was 12- or 8-hour days. If the service is 12-hour days, it must attest that a two-watch system has been authorized by the vessel's Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection (COI), and the COI must actually authorize that.

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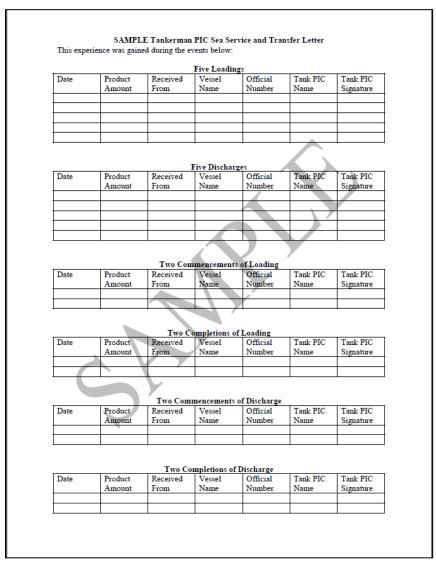
(2) **TANKERMAN PIC SEA SERVICE & TRANSFER LETTER:** To document your Tankerman-PIC sea service and transfer experience in a sea service letter, read the example below carefully and complete it exactly as instructed.

			Co	mpany	y's/Ship	s Letter He	ad			
										Date
From	n: (See: 46	CFR 11.	211 and 46	CFR 1	3.127 f	or specific i	information	)		
To: United States Coast Guard										
			e Center (N	MC)						
		bes Drive burg, WV								
								Γ.		
			S> ACCUN					D TANK	ERMAN	
PER	SON IN C	HARGE	SERVICE /	AND I	KANSI	FERLEIII	CK I	V	· )	
Dea	r NMC:					1				
Plea	se be advis	ed that ≤r	employee na	100e> <	manine	ridentificat	ion number	> jij/was	employed	by
our	company as	s a <posit< td=""><td>ion&gt;. The f</td><td>ollowi</td><td>ng is an</td><td>accumulat</td><td>ion of <emp< td=""><td>loyee na</td><td>me&gt;'s sea</td><td>.,</td></emp<></td></posit<>	ion>. The f	ollowi	ng is an	accumulat	ion of <emp< td=""><td>loyee na</td><td>me&gt;'s sea</td><td>.,</td></emp<>	loyee na	me>'s sea	.,
time	6									
Vessel	Official	Vessel	Propulsion	GRT	HP	Pesiton	Route	Begin	End	Days
Name	Number	Type		- 1			-	Date	Date	Underway
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>				×	<u> </u>	+	+
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	-		1					
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1. dem			that <emple faction that</emple 							
			efied Gas>							
2	This der	monstratio	on has inclu	ided th	e follov	ving: pre-tra	unsfer inspe	ctions, pr	e-transfer	
			ution of the							
and/or loading-arms, the line-up of the cargo system for loading and discharge, the start of liquid flow during loading, the start of the cargo system and increase of genuing to normal discharge.										
flow during loading, the start of the cargo pump and increase of pressure to normal discharge pressure, the calculation of the loading rate(s), monitoring of the loading and loading rate,									ing rate,	
pres			es during los			stripping of ding-arms a				
pres topp	tertioner diama							CILLER CI	A EU SYSTEM	

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1. The letter must indicate that the mariner has demonstrated his or her ability to supervise transfers, including the capabilities indicated in <u>46 CFR 13.127</u>. The letter must also indicate the type of cargoes being transferred (i.e., Dangerous Liquids or Liquefied Gas).



- a) Documentation of transfers for a Tankerman endorsement must include:
  - i. the date
  - ii. the amount transferred
  - iii. the name and official number of the tank vessel **or** the name of the tank facility from which the product is transferred
  - iv. the name and official number of the vessel that the transfer occurred on

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- v. the printed name of the Tankerman PIC who observed the mariner's participation in the transfer
- vi. the Tankerman PIC's signature.
- b) All transfers must be completed to qualify for credit. The letter above will require you to break down transfers in which the mariner participated to demonstrate:
  - i. five loads
  - ii. five discharges
  - iii. two commencements of a load
  - iv. two completions of a load
  - v. two commencements of a discharge
  - vi. two completions of a discharge.

A common area of confusion in this complex requirement is that one entire transfer may satisfy a number of these requirements (i.e., a load, a commencement of a load, and a completion of a load). The format supplied above would require this transfer to be listed three times, once in each applicable section.

SAMPLE Tankerman PIC Sea Service and Transfer Letter
3. I also certify that all Loadings and Discharges noted above are credited and executed in strict accordance with 46 CFR Part 13.127 (b)(1) through (9). In addition, I certify that these transfers were not completed in the action of bunkering or fueling, per 46 CFR Part 13.107(g).
Whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 5 years or both (18 U.S.C. 1001).
I certify that this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and is in accordance with the warning notice listed above (18 U.S.C. 1001).
<signature by="" chief="" engineer="" master,="" operator,="" or="" owner,=""> <printed chief="" engineer="" master,="" name="" of="" operator,="" or="" owner,=""> <contact differs="" from="" if="" letterhead="" number=""></contact></printed></signature>

2. The letter must attest that all transfers were conducted in accordance with the requirements of <u>46 CFR 13.127</u> as shown above. Bunkering, shifting cargo from one tank to another within a vessel, and/or fueling are <u>**not**</u> considered transfers of dangerous liquids and cannot be used toward a Tankerman Endorsement.

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- 3. The letter must be signed by one of the following:
  - a. the owner of the vessel
  - b. a senior company official with access to logbooks and records who is able to verify all service and transfers
  - c. the Master of the vessel
  - d. the Chief Engineer of the vessel.

- Transfers must be completed on vessels documented as either Tank Ships or <u>self-</u> <u>propelled</u> tank vessels certified to carry the type of cargo that the mariner is applying for.
  - Service on Cargo Vessels, Container Ships, Lift boats, Offshore Supply Vessels (OSVs), and non-self-propelled tank barges <u>may not</u> be used toward an endorsement as Tankerman PIC, Tankerman Assistant, or Tankerman Engineer.
- Transfers must be completed in accordance with <u>46 CFR 13.127</u>.

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#### (3) TANKERMAN PIC (BARGE) SEA SERVICE & TRANSFER LETTER: To

document Tankerman-PIC (Barge) sea service and transfer experience in a sea service letter, read the example below carefully and complete it exactly as instructed.

										Date
Fro	m: (See: 46	CFR 11.	211 and 46	CFR 1	3.127 f	or specific	information	)		
From: (See: 46 CFR 11.211 and 46 CFR 13.127 for specific information) To: United States Coast Guard										
	Nationa		e Center (N	IMC)						
		burg, WV						$\wedge$		
	ject: <emi SON IN C</emi 						RVICE AN	D TANK	ERMAN	
	r NMC:	HARGE	DANGE SE	D. V D.	ELEII	ER .		X		
									<b>.</b> .	
our	ise be advis company as									
time			-						1	1-
Vessel Name	Official Number	Vessel Type	Propulsion	GRT	HP	Pecifica	Route	Begin Date	End Date	Days Underway
							-	<u> </u>		
					$\Lambda$			<u> </u>		
	+					7	<u> </u>	-	+	+
	-						<u> </u>		+	-
The	listed <u>sea</u> s		site of the	0812	hourd	ave undam	av Br da		12 hour	dav
serv	rice, I am at each vessel	testing th	at 12 hour d	lays ha	ve been	authorized	by the Uni	ted States	Coast Gr	ard,
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	sonstrated to angerous Li					ally capable	of supervi	sing trans	fers of	
2.			on has inclu							
and	ferences and for loading-	arms, the	line-up of t	he car	go syste	m for loadi	ng and disc	harge, the	start of li	iquid
	v during loa isure, the ca	lculation	of the loadi	ng rate	(s), mo	nitoring of	the loading	and loadi	ing rate,	
		and the second	a descion tax	diam	and the s	tripping of	cargo tanko	. ballastir	or and de-	

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1. A service letter must clearly indicate the barges on which the mariner served. Service on Towing Vessels is not directly creditable for use toward a Tankerman PIC (Barge) endorsement. If the mariner's service was on a towing vessel, the letter must specify the number of days of closely related service where the towing vessel was directly involved with ferrying tank barges.

- Not including the vessel information (Official Number, cargo classification) <u>of the</u> <u>barge</u> that the transfers occurred on when service is on towing vessels directly involved with tank barges.
- Listing only the number of days of service on towing vessels and not breaking down the number of days directly involved with handling tank barges.
- Service must be on vessels documented as tank vessels certified to carry the type of cargo that the mariner is applying for.
  - Service on Cargo Vessels, Container Ships, Lift boats, and Offshore Supply Vessels (OSVs) <u>may not</u> be used toward an endorsement as Tankerman PIC (Barge).

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(4) **QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR LETTER:** To document qualified instructor experience in a sea service letter, read the example below carefully and complete it exactly as instructed.

SAMPLE Qualified Instructor Letter
•
Academy/School's Letter Head
Date
From: (See: 46 CFR 10.227 for specific information)
To: United States Coast Guard
National Maritime Center (NMC)
100 Forbes Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25404
Subject: RECORD AS EMPLOYMENT AS A QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR
Dear NMC:
Please be advised that <employee name=""> <mariner identification="" number=""> is/was</mariner></employee>
employed by our educational institution as a qualified instructor. Please consider this
service toward the renewal requirements of 46 CFR 10.227(e)(1)(v).
Employee name> has taught the following courses within the past 5 years.
Title of American Course and Code Datas Instructed
Title of Approved Course and Code Dates Instructed
With the second s
Whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United
States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or
device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry,
shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 5 years or both (18
U.S.C. 1001). I certify that this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge
and is in accordance with the warning notice listed above (18 U.S.C. 1001).
and is in accordance with the warming house inside above (10 0.5.0. 1001).
7
<signature authorized="" by="" company="" representative=""></signature>
<printed authorized="" company="" name="" of="" representative=""></printed>
<contact differs="" from="" if="" letterhead="" number=""></contact>

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- Letter is not on school or academy letterhead.
- Letter is not signed by an appropriate academy or school representative (a mariner may not attest to their service as an instructor).
- Letter does not indicate the course(s) and date(s) the instructor taught.