



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
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MSIB Number: 01-25
Date: January 2, 2025
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Non-Operating Individual (NOI), Resumption of Enforcement of Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) Requirements

On January 1, 2025, the U.S. Coast Guard's statutory authority to enforce the requirement for a NOI to possess an MMC resumed. During the last 4 years, the Coast Guard was mandated by law to not enforce this requirement on these individuals. The authority to enforce this requirement was suspended by Congress from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2024. See [Pub. L. 116-283, div. G, title LVXXXIII \[LXXXIII\], §8313\(a\), \(b\), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4697, 4698](#), as amended by [Pub. L. 117-263, div. K, title CXV, §11516, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 4141](#).

During the period of non-enforcement, the Coast Guard could not enforce the MMC requirement(s) on marine firefighters, spill response personnel, salvage personnel, and commercial divers and diving support personnel who were engaged or employed on board any vessel for the sole purpose of carrying out spill response activities, salvage, marine firefighting, or commercial diving business or functions. Where an Offshore Supply Vessel (OSV), industrial vessel, or other similarly engaged vessel was specifically concerned, in addition to any of the individuals mentioned above, the Coast Guard could not enforce the MMC requirement(s) on individuals who were engaged or employed on board to:

- Support or execute the industrial business or function of such a vessel.
- Perform tasks not traditionally performed by the crew, such as –
 - Conducting surveys or investigations for brief periods
 - Assessing crew competence
 - Conducting vessel trials
 - Providing extraordinary security resources.
- Perform warranty maintenance on equipment, maintenance on equipment not owned by the vessel owner, or maintenance beyond the crew's capability.

For a more detailed description of a NOI, please click on [Pub. L. 116-283, div. G, title LVXXXIII \[LXXXIII\], §8313\(a\), \(b\), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4697](#) or see the **Statutory Notes And Related Subsidiaries** section of 46 U.S.C. § 8701.

Questions concerning the issuance of an MMC to a NOI shall be directed to the USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) (https://www.dco.uscg.mil/national_maritime_center/) by e-mailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662). For enforcement questions related to the possession of an MMC, please contact the cognizant USCG Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI)¹.

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¹ [USCG Prevention Directory Contact List](#)