

announcing the availability of the changes to Part B (legacy chapters 20 – 26) and requested public comments (See 78 FR 48696 and 79 FR 14714) as well as input from the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee. The final Notice of Availability, including comments and material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned as being available in the docket, are part of docket USCG-2013-0240. Unless specifically stated otherwise, this Commandant Change Notice is effective as of the date of publication. Any discrepancies with vessel manning or endorsements should be brought to the attention of the owner/operator or Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) and discussed during the next scheduled Coast Guard attendance with a view of aligning with this revised guidance.

5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard's current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other Federal and State regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. Members of the public may use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.
6. MAJOR CHANGES. This Change is presented in a new format, to facilitate future revisions by creating three distinct parts; Part A: Mariner Credentialing (Chapters 1-17), Part B: Vessel Manning (legacy Chapters 20-26, now Chapters 1-7), and Part C: Shipment and Service (legacy Chapters 18-19, now Chapters 1-2). This Change includes revisions to Part C, Chapters 1 and 2, to account for revised regulations, updated CG-Forms, and reformatting. Substantive changes to Part B, Chapters 1-7, of this Manual include:
 - a. Full alignment with Deputy Commandant for Operations Organization 3.0 for clarity of roles and responsibilities and facilitation of communications with appropriate offices in Headquarters.
 - b. Updated general provisions for vessel manning, including guidance for the issuance of safe manning documents.
 - c. Incorporates updated information on the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).
 - d. Revised discussion on the impact of multiple international standards, including; the Officer's Competency Certificates Convention (OCCC) 1936, the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and the Principles of Minimum Safe Manning (IMO Resolution A.1047(27)).
 - e. Clarification on the applicability of tonnage measurement systems to U.S. flag vessels.
 - f. Changes resulting from the consolidation of merchant mariner qualification credentials, including the removal of references to the operator uninspected towing vessel (OUTV) endorsement.

- g. Context on the allowable employment and conditions of a two-watch system for specific vessel types.
- h. Updated policy reflecting the regulations for the Implementation of the 2010 Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, (STCW) and Changes to National Endorsements (78 FR 1625-AA16, 247 [December 24, 2013]).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.

- a. The development of this Commandant Change Notice and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Management, and are categorically excluded (CE) under current USCG CE # 33 from further environmental analysis, in accordance with Section 2.B.2. and Figure 2-1 of the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series). Because this Commandant Change Notice contains guidance on, and provisions for, compliance with applicable environmental mandates, Coast Guard categorical exclusion #33 is appropriate.
- b. This directive will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this Commandant Change Notice must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates. Due to the administrative and procedural nature of this Commandant Change Notice, and the environmental guidance provided within it for compliance with all applicable environmental laws prior to promulgating any directive, all applicable environmental considerations are addressed appropriately in this Commandant Change Notice.

8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Commandant Change Notice. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites. Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/directives/>, and CGPortal: <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

9. PROCEDURE. Remove and replace the following sections of The Marine Safety Manual, Volume III, Marine Industry Personnel, COMDTINST M16000.8B:

Remove	Replace
Contents IV-VII	Contents IV-VII
Chapters 18-19	Chapters C1-C2
Chapters 20-26	Chapters B1-B7
List of Figures F-i	List of Figures LIF-i
IMO Resolution A.481(XII)	Annex
Index I-1 – I-18	*Removed

10. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Instruction has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., NARA requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not create significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.
11. FORMS/REPORTS. The forms referenced in this Manual are available in USCG Electronic Forms on the Standard Workstation or on the Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/forms/>; CG Portal <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/delivery/Satellite/CG611/FORMS> and Intranet at <http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/CGForms>.
12. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Units and individuals may recommend changes via the chain of command to: CG-CVC-1@uscg.mil.

P. F. THOMAS /s/
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Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy