



October 28, 2010

Mate (Pilot) or Master of Towing Vessels upon Western Rivers * Restricted from Transiting Locks*

The Coast Guard recognizes that many mariners have years of experience on towing vessels operating upon Western Rivers yet never navigate on any portion of the Western Rivers requiring the transiting of locks. Additionally, new mariners in training on towing vessels may be employed by companies not engaged in operations which necessitate the transiting of locks. In order to allow these mariners to continue advancement of their maritime career, the Coast Guard has established two towing vessel officer endorsements limited to operations on Western Rivers in which the transiting of locks is not applicable. The two new officer endorsements are Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels upon Western Rivers – Restricted from Transiting Locks and Master of Towing Vessels upon Western Rivers – Restricted from Transiting Locks.

The professional requirements to advance from Apprentice Mate (Steersman) upon Western Rivers, to Mate (Pilot) and eventually to Master of towing with regards to sea service, physical examination, drug testing and, if applicable, examination(s), have not changed. All applicants must submit an application with a completed Towing Officer Assessment Record (TOAR) for Western Rivers signed by an NMC approved Designated Examiner with the exception of the four maneuvering elements involving locks:

- D.16 Enter lock with upstream approach
- D.17 Enter lock with downstream approach
- D.18 Leave lock with upstream departure
- D.19 Leave lock with downstream departure

Mariners holding Mate or Master of inspected vessels greater than 200 gross registered tons; may apply for Mate (Pilot) or Master of Towing Vessel upon Western Rivers - Restricted from Transiting Locks, by obtaining 90 days training and observation on Western Rivers and completing the limited TOAR.

Please contact the National Maritime Center at 1-888-427-5662 or via e-mail IASKNMC@USCG.MIL with questions.

Sincerely,

A.S. LLOYD
Captain, US Coast Guard

*For the latest information on STCW and Licensing,
visit our web site at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc>.
The National Maritime Center is an ISO 9001:2008 Compliant Organization.*