

- 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.
5. 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>.
6. PROCEDURE. Remove and replace the following sections of The Marine Safety Manual, Volume III, Marine Industry Personnel, COMDTINST M16000.8B:

Remove	Replace
Contents V-VI	Contents V-VI
Chapters 20-26	Chapters 20-26
List of Figures F-i	List of Figures F-i
IMO Resolution A.481(XII)	Annex
Index I-1 – I-18	Index I-1 – I-18

7. 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.
8. 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 create significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.
9. 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.

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- 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.

10. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

J. A. SERVIDIO

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy