

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I qualify for permanent entitlement of the Marine Safety Qualification Insignia. Will I have to purchase my pin?

A: No. Each person qualified for the insignia will be issued one pin along with a certificate. Commandant (G-M) has requested a count from each issuing authority of qualifying members (including active duty, reserve, civilian, auxiliary, and retired personnel after 01NOV00). We estimate that pins will be mailed to units in mid-August. Personnel not currently assigned to a marine safety unit or staff should contact their nearest marine safety unit or staff element. All personnel must purchase any additional pins as well as the miniature pins.

Q: What are the Marine Safety Insignia award criteria? Why are both the qualifications and the time at field units necessary to qualify for permanent entitlement to wear the pin?

A: Refer to the [Marine Safety Insignia Criteria](#). The Commandant approved the M Pro-Pin to recognize the men and women who serve this program demonstrating both technical expertise and field operational missions.

Q: Where can I find an updated list of technical qualifications and a revised grandfather clause to incorporate those qualifications now considered outdated?

A: Please review [Change 12 to Marine Safety Manual, Volume I, COMDTINST M16000.6](#).

Q: How are the four years of service in the Marine Safety program to be served at a Marine Safety operational field unit measured? Can I get a waiver if I do not meet this requirement?

A: The years are measured by the day, i.e. the member must provide for his/her supervisor/command a list of operational marine safety tours by month/day/year. You may not get a

waiver, but your command may authorize you temporary entitlement of the insignia for the period that you are assigned to that unit if you meet the qualification criteria but have not yet met the time requirement.

Q: Who is authorized to issue the Marine Safety Insignia?

A: Marine Safety Unit Commanding Officers, Activity Commanding Officers, Area (M), District (M), G-M, or G-MO may issue the Marine Safety Insignia and accompanying certificate. For Headquarters Staff and Units, a [Request for Authorization to Wear the Marine Safety Insignia](#) should be forwarded to G-M-1 for final determination via the chain of command.

Q: Will units be able to print the Marine Safety Insignia certificates?

A: The certificate will be standard form CG-5686 and will be available in the Coast Guard stock system by mid-August. For the initial rollout of the insignia, blank certificates will be mailed to each unit. To replenish supplies, units will need to re-order forms as needed. A template will be available to assist field units in printing on this certificate.

Q: What documentation is necessary to demonstrate qualifications obtained?

A: Members must prove attainment of qualifications via CG-3307 entries, qualification letters, signed/completed PQS books, or PMIS/JUMPS qualification codes. In some cases, Officer Evaluation Reports may have sufficient duty descriptions to demonstrate a member has successfully held the responsibilities of a given qualification even though no letter was issued.

Q: I received qualifications under the previous qualification system? How can I tell if I qualify to receive the Marine Safety Insignia?

A: Refer to [Change 12 to Marine Safety Manual, Volume I, COMDTINST M16000.6](#), the "Grandfather Clause," for those personnel assigned to marine safety duty prior to 01 October 1984.

Q: What if I am serving in an "M" billet at a non-M field unit? Do the years during this time count toward earning the Marine Safety Insignia?

A: While staff positions and billets at other units are important support links for the marine safety program, the time served at these positions does not count toward the insignia.

Q: How is the temporary Marine Safety Insignia issued?

A: A Commanding Officer of a Marine Safety operational field unit may authorize temporary wear of the insignia for the period that you are assigned to that unit if you meet the qualification criteria but have not yet met the time requirement. You will not receive a certificate until you qualify for permanent entitlement to wear the M Pro-Pin. However, temporary issue shall be documented by your supervisor/command via a CG-3307.

Q: My unit requires us to attain qualifications not listed in the Marine Safety Manual, and I feel that they should count toward the four necessary to be awarded the Marine Safety Insignia. What can I do?

A: The qualifications listed in the Marine Safety Manual, Volume I, Chapter 7 are carefully developed to support the various responsibilities within the Marine Safety and Environmental Protection program. The Marine Safety Training Coordination Counsel (MSTCC) reviews all criteria for professional qualifications and has developed the below guidelines for nation-wide standards within the program:

SCREENING CRITERIA FOR M QUALS

- Can be awarded at multiple operational/field "M" units.
- Required to perform a core or primary "M" mission.

The recent change to the MSM includes all qualifications approved by G-M. If you believe your unit has a qualification that meets the screen criteria above, your Command can submit a request to G-MRP via the chain of command to request consideration as an G-M qualification.

Q: Can I wear the Marine Safety Insignia with other Insignia?

A: The Marine Safety Insignia shall be worn in accordance with Chapter 2.A of the Uniform Regulations, COMDTINST M1020.6D. A maximum of two (2) insignias may be worn (when medals or ribbons are also worn) with the most recent placed on top.

Q: I am a civilian working for G-M in a staff position. I am also a retired Coast Guard officer and, while on active duty, I received four qualifications that meet the criteria and served at field units from 1972-1978. Do I qualify to wear the Marine Safety Insignia?

A: Yes, your qualifications must be verified by an issuing Command but there is no limitation on marine safety field unit experience.

Q: I am a retired/former Coast Guard petty officer and, while on active duty, I received four qualifications that meet the criteria and served at field units from 1970-1976. Do I qualify to wear the Marine Safety Insignia?

A: Yes, your qualifications must be verified by an issuing Command but there is no time limitation on the marine safety insignia.

Q: I served at a marine safety field unit from 2 years while on active duty and received four qualifications. I then was released from active duty and became a Reservist. I completed 2 "good years" as a Reserve. Do I qualify?

A: Yes. You can combine years on active duty, as a reserve, or as an auxiliarist.

Q: I am a reserve that has worked in the a marine safety field unit for the requisite 4 years but some of my qualifications are now listed in the MSM Volume I Chapter 7.D.3.b rather than in Chapter 7.C.2, do they still count toward the Marine Safety Insignia?

A: Yes. The qualifications listed in MSM Volume I Chapter 7.D.3.b are acceptable for the Marine Safety Insignia but must be verified and accepted by an issuing Command.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR NEW FAQs AS OF JULY 17, 2001.

Q: I am at a unit that does not have Tank Vessels or other vessel types that are listed in the PQS Books. Can I get a qualification such as MI or Pollution Investigator if I cannot demonstrate a portion of the PQS?

A: Yes, but it will be considered a local qualification. The prerequisite clause in Change 12 of MSM chapter 7 was meant to specifically address waiving entire PQS books such as the HI qualification. There are many units that have more limited opportunities than other ports. The PQS books are to be completed in their entirety to assure that an MI qualification (or any qualification) at one port means the same as it does in the next. Completing the entire book also ensures that the skill set of a person holding the qualification is similar. This case is not isolated to just the MI qualifications - ports that do not have wooden T-boats can't sign off that requirement in the PQS without either a creative TAD program or some other avenue to get personnel the exposure to vessels not native to their port. Pollution investigation, Boarding officer, and Facility inspection qualifications may also require some creative TAD to ensure members have demonstrated all of the PQS requirements.

For issuing the M Pro-pin, MSM Volume I, chapter 7, Paragraph E (a). says, "Commands shall prepare letters of designation whenever **all** of their requirements for a particular OJT manual have been satisfactorily completed." Therefore, qualifications granted based on a portion of the book being completed should be considered local. For those requesting insignia issuance, it is recommended that commands accept a member's qualification letters based on the assumption that previous Commanding Officers ensured the requirements were met.

Q: Why do we have to complete both at CG-3307 and enter the M Insignia issuance into CGHRMS?

A: This "double documentation" was requested to ensure members received recognition because G-M's request for a code to be added to the CGHRMS had not been completed at the time the ALCOAST was released. The code request has now been met and it is

designated "**CGMSI**." Because CGHRMS is now able to record the M insignia issuance, a copy of the certificate is proof of issuance and an entry into HRMS is sufficient. Therefore, a CG-3307 is **optional. This is based on** COMDTINST 1080.10E, which says, "a CG-3307 (positive-general type) should be completed if the award code will not be included in the code set for the new HRMS." This administrative change will be reflected in a future update of the Personnel Manual. A memorandum reflecting this change will be sent to all issuing authorities.