

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



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National Maritime Center

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NMC Policy Letter 6-02
17 January 2002

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center
To: Distribution

Subj: PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES AND RATINGS RECEIVED
BEFORE 1 FEBRUARY 2002

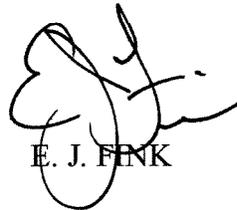
1. PURPOSE. This policy letter provides guidance to Regional Examination Centers about the validity and acceptance of applications for issuance of an original credential or upgrade of an existing credential when the application is received before 1 February 2002. It applies only to applications for a qualification that is subject to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW).
2. ACTION.
 - a. Commanding officers of units with a Regional Examination Center shall be guided by the policies set forth in this letter.
 - b. Commanding officers of units with marine safety responsibilities should bring this policy letter to the attention of the maritime industry with interests in marine personnel issues and to institutions that offer U. S. Coast Guard approved training. This policy letter will be distributed by electronic means only. It is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uscg.mil/STCW/m-policy.htm>.
3. BACKGROUND. The 1995 amendments to the STCW become effective on 1 February 2002. Beginning that date, mariners applying for a qualification that allows service on a seagoing vessel must fully comply with the requirements of the STCW. All such documents issued after 31 January 2002 must be in compliance with the 1995 amendments to the STCW.
4. DISCUSSION.
 - a. Due to existing workloads, some mariners will have submitted applications for qualifications subject to the STCW before 1 February 2002 that cannot be processed before that date. Such an application may be accepted and the mariner tested and processed under the procedures and standards that applied before 1 February 2002 provided the mariner meets the requirements listed in the following paragraph. It is not

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visit our web site at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc>*

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intended that a mariner should be required to meet the more stringent STCW requirements that become effective on 1 February 2002 through no fault of his/her own.

- b. To be eligible for consideration under the provisions of paragraph 4.a, the mariner must submit the application before 1 February 2002. Only a completed application is necessary for the mariner to remain eligible for review under the former licensing or certification scheme. If proof of sea service does not accompany the application, the mariner will be required to provide evidence that he or she completed before 1 February 2002 the required sea service to qualify for the license or seaman's rating and STCW certification for which the mariner is applying. Once approved, the mariner's application will be valid for one year or through 31 January 2003, whichever occurs first. If an application has been approved for processing under the former licensing and/or certification scheme and the approval expires, the application must be resubmitted for evaluation under the requirements of the 1995 amendments to the STCW.
- c. If an application is received by mail, the application will be processed in accordance with this policy letter if the applicant has completed or will complete all of required sea service before 1 February 2002 and the envelope is postmarked before that date.



E. J. FENK

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Area Commanders (Am)
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