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NMC Policy Letter No. 01-01

2 Mar 01

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

Subj: RENEWAL OF BASIC SAFETY TRAINING

1. This policy letter provides guidance concerning the requirements for, and the methods of, renewal of the four elements of basic safety training (BST) required by the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW).

2. The requirements for a mariner to have completed BST are found in the STCW Code A-VI/1, paragraph 2, which requires that a mariner have achieved the required standards of competence within the previous five years. The following options are available for renewal of BST:

a. Completion of a training course or courses approved or accepted by the U. S. Coast Guard for the purpose of initial compliance with BST or for the purpose of renewing BST; or

b. Participation in a shipboard training program included within a company's Safety Management Plan required by the International Safety Management Code. A company electing to have a training program approved for renewal of BST under this option must provide the U. S. Coast Guard's National Maritime Center with the following information:

(1) The overall scope of the program and evidence that it is included within the vessels Safety Management Plan;

(2) The criteria that will be used to determine a mariner's continued competency including the length of sea service within the program and the number of drills and exercises in which the mariner must have participated;

(3) The criteria that will be used to assess a mariner's continued proficiency. If the national guidelines will be used, a statement to that effect will suffice, otherwise the assessment criteria must be set forth in detail;

(4) Information about the examiners who will conduct the assessments of skills and the guidance provided to them; and

(5) A sample of the documentation that will be provided the mariner to indicate completion of the elements of BST.

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3. Vessel operators who establish an on-board training program that is approved or accepted by the U. S. Coast Guard will be included in the list of approved courses maintained by the National Maritime Center. Certificates of completion from these programs will be accepted as establishing continued competence in BST.

M. S. BOOTHE

Dist: Commandant (G-MSO)  
All District Commanders (m)  
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