

The Safety and Suitability Evaluations Branch (SSE) at the U.S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center (NMC) evaluates an applicant's criminal record to determine if an applicant's character and habits of life establishes that the person serving under the authority of the requested credential poses no threat to safety of life or property, is not likely to be detrimental to good discipline, and is not adverse to the interests of the United States.



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**Send ALL applications for credentials
to your local Regional Exam Center.**

www.uscg.mil/nmc



The National Maritime Center

**Safety and
Suitability
Evaluations**

Every application for a U.S. mariner credential is subject to a safety and suitability check.

TWIC

A staff application screener examines an application and verifies that the applicant has applied for a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC). See the National Maritime Center's (NMC's) **Mariner Applications and TWIC Changes** brochure for more information regarding TWIC guidance.

Biographical Information

Biographical information such as name, mariner reference number, date of birth, place of birth, social security number, criminal convictions statement, and other data is compared to the information recorded in the applicant's merchant mariner record. Any discrepancies are resolved.

Citizenship, Nationality, and Permanent Residence

Safety and Suitability Evaluation (SSE) Branch verifies nationality, citizenship, and possession of a valid permanent resident card for non-U.S. citizens. If not a U.S. citizen, an applicant must have a valid foreign passport and permanent resident card (PRC) to qualify for an Operator, Uninspected Passenger Vessel (OUPV) endorsement or rating endorsement. Only a U.S. citizen can be issued a Merchant



Mariner Credential (MMC) officer endorsement except for the OUPV. The applicant will have to show the foreign passport and PRC either at a Transportation Security Administration office when applying for a TWIC or upon request at a Coast Guard Regional Examination Center.

Criminal Record Review

After SSE staff members verify the citizenship, nationality, and lawful permanent residence of an applicant, they thoroughly scrutinize any criminal record for a history of violent crimes, use of or addiction to illegal drugs or addiction to alcohol, environmental crimes, and other offenses that suggest a safety risk, or are detrimental to good discipline, or adverse to the interests of the United States. 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Table 1 to §10.211 contains a sample list of offenses. If an offense is found to prevent the issuance of an MMC, the NMC may impose various conditions on an applicant prior to issuance, such as proving cure from the use of dangerous drugs or being compelled to wait some period of time (an assessment period) prior to an MMC being issued. In addition, if an applicant holds a current MMC, the NMC may refer the offending mariner to a Coast Guard Investigating Officer for possible suspension or revocation of the credential.

Dangerous Drug Use

An applicant who has been convicted of a violation of a dangerous drug law or has failed a chemical test for drug use may encounter obstacles in both SSE and

the Medical Evaluation Division, and have to prove cure from drug use or alcohol abuse or addiction. The applicant may supply information sufficient to satisfy law enforcement standards enforced by SSE, but that same information may not meet the criteria to satisfy the medical evaluation standards for MMCs.

National Driver Registry

SSE will check an applicant's National Driver Registry (NDR) history for current NDR drug or alcohol related suspensions or revocations. If an applicant has a conviction less than a year old, or two or more convictions within three years of each other - and the second oldest is less than three years old - or a current suspension or revocation of any age, NMC will require proof of eligibility of driver's license reinstatement. Prior to any imposition of an assessment period, NMC will provide to the applicant the NDR record and an opportunity to obtain and submit state records in rebuttal to the NDR information.

