



March 20, 2009

Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) Terminology

In our most recent information bulletins ([TWIC Information](#), [MMC Information](#) and the [MMC Presentation](#)) we've introduced a few of the terms associated with the MMC. This bulletin introduces some other terminology with the MMC.

Currently, the four credentials issued by the Coast Guard (License, Certificate of Registry, STCW and MMD) are referred to by their individual names and are collectively known as merchant mariner credentials. When the Coast Guard begins issuing the MMC after April 15, 2009 there will only be one credential, which will contain all of the qualifications previously certified by the four individual credentials. As such, the terminology used to describe mariners' qualifications will change. On the new MMC, a mariner's qualifications will be categorized as Domestic and International endorsements as appropriate.

- **Domestic Endorsements** are further divided into Officer and Rating Endorsements. See the [MMC Rule](#) for specific endorsements.
 - Officer Endorsements coincide with the current License and Certificate of Registry. There are 43 Officer Endorsements.
 - Rating Endorsements coincide with the current MMD. There are 17 Rating Endorsements.
 - Officer Endorsements will continue to be further divided into Upper Level and Lower Level.
- **International or STCW Endorsements** coincide with the current STCW Certificate. There are 14 International/STCW Endorsements.

All endorsements will be listed in terms of Capacities and Limitations. See the previously published [MMC Presentation](#) for examples.

A **Document of Continuity** will take the place of renewing a credential for continuity purposes. This single document will incorporate all of the capacities that are being placed in continuity status. A document of continuity will have no expiration date. See the previously published [MMC Presentation](#) for an example.

Sincerely,

David C. Stalfort
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard