



Coast Guard Policy Letter 11-07: Frequently Asked Questions

(Q). Why was the Coast Guard's policy changed?

A. The Coast Guard has determined that Policy Letter 01-02 imposed requirements that were in excess of the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR). The new policy letter 11-07 removes the requirements that have been found to exceed those in the CFR, and also clarifies several areas of confusion regarding 01-02 policy letter. The Federal Register notice and related materials may be reviewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-2011-0525.

(Q). I applied for an OICNW endorsement before the policy letter was published. Does the policy apply to me?

A. Yes. The policy applies to all applicants for an STCW endorsement as Officer In Charge Of A Navigational Watch (OICNW) without regard for when or if they have previously applied for an OICNW endorsement.

(Q). I applied for an OICNW endorsement and received an "awaiting information" letter telling me I need to take courses like "Terrestrial Navigation" and "Basic Meteorology" that are not required under the new policy. Do I still need to take those courses?

A. No. The policy applies to all mariners seeking OICNW endorsements, including those with pending applications and those who had previously applied for endorsements. The NMC will review all pending applications for OICNW endorsements, including those in an "awaiting information" status and those that are under appeal or a request for reconsideration, and re-evaluate them in accordance with this policy.

(Q). I applied for an OICNW endorsement in the past and my application was not approved because I did not take all of the courses required in the 01-02 Policy Letter. My application has now "timed out" or expired. Do I need to re-apply for the OICNW endorsement?

A. Yes. A mariner who had submitted an application that has been closed, "timed out" or denied must re-apply by submitting a complete, new application.

(Q). My school has a course approved to meet part of the requirements in the cancelled 01-02 Policy Letter. Is that course approval still valid?

A. Yes. All previously approved courses will remain valid until they expire, or their approval is withdrawn or revised.



(Q). My school has a course that was approved to meet training requirements now cancelled by Policy Letter 11-07. Can this course be used by mariners to meet OICNW assessment requirements?

A. Yes, but only as specified in the course approval. The existing approval of the course will identify those assessments that are satisfied by the course. If a school would like to have its approval amended to include practical assessments, they should submit a request for modification of the course curriculum and/or approval to the NMC.

Q. I hold an officer endorsement as Master Not More Than 1600 GRT (or Master Not More Than 500 GRT) and am applying for an endorsement as 3rd Mate Any Gross Tons. Am I required to take an examination?

A. Maybe. If you have never tested for Mate 500 GRT, Mate 1600 GRT, or Mate-OSV, or if you tested for these endorsements before February 1, 2002, you will be required to test for an endorsement as 3rd Mate or 2nd Mate. 46 CFR 11.910 requires mariners seeking endorsements as 3rd Mate to be examined on specific subjects. Mariners who obtained any of the listed endorsements by testing on or after February 1, 2002, will have taken the same examination as is given for 3rd Mate, and will have already complied with the testing requirements in 46 CFR 11.910.

Q. Policy Letter 04-02 is similar to the cancelled Policy Letter 01-02. Is Policy Letter 04-02 still valid?

A. The policy letter is valid until cancelled. However, an individual mariner's qualifications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q. I understand that the Coast Guard is reconsidering its proposed rulemaking on mariner credentialing following the recent amendments to the STCW. Will there be a new proposed rulemaking that includes this new OICNW policy?

A. The STCW Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM) was published in the Federal Register for public comment on 1 August. The public comment period ends on 30 September. Please go to www.gpoaccess.gov/fr to access the information. The docket number is USCG-2004-178914. Search on "STCW". The SNPRM is contained in 4 listings all titled "Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention". Additionally, you will find a fifth listing under that title published on 2 August that announces the date and location of public meetings concerning the SNPRM.

Helpful Web link:

US Coast Guard Policy letter's pertaining to the Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) program.

http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/policy_guidance_date.asp