

DISCUSSION OF QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ABLE SEAFARER-DECK

1. GENERAL. This enclosure provides guidance to qualify for an International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW) endorsement as Able Seafarer-Deck (AS-D) as specified in 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 12.603.
2. SEA SERVICE AND TRAINING.
 - a. As specified in 46 CFR 12.603(a), to qualify for an AS-D endorsement a mariner must:
 - 1) Meet the requirements for an endorsement as a Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch (RFPNW). It is not necessary to hold the endorsement for RFPNW, but all training, sea service and/or assessments required for RFPNW must be completed before accruing the sea service for AS-D;
 - 2) While qualified as RFPNW have either 18 months of seagoing service in the deck department, or 12 months of seagoing service in the deck department with completed approved training;
 - 3) Meet the standard of competence specified in Table A-II/5 of the STCW Code;
 - 4) Complete approved training for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (PSC) or Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Lifeboats or Fast Rescue Boats (PSC-Limited); and
 - 5) Have currently valid Basic Training (46 CFR 12.602).
 - b. Mariners holding a rating endorsement as able seaman before January 1, 2017, will be eligible for this endorsement if they:
 - 1) Hold an endorsement as RFPNW and have completed approved training for PSC or PSC-Limited (46 CFR 12.603(c)); and
 - 2) Have currently valid Basic Training (46 CFR 12.602).
 - c. Mariners may qualify for an endorsement as AS-D until January 1, 2017, if they have:
 - 1) Served as a watchstanding Able Seaman, or as a RFPNW for a period of not less than 12 months within the 60 months prior to application for the endorsement (46 CFR 12.603(b)); and
 - 2) Currently valid Basic Training (46 CFR 12.602).
 - d. Mariners who qualify for AS-D under paragraph 2.c above qualify for endorsement as RFPNW.
3. ASSESSMENT. As set forth in 46 CFR 12.603(a)(4), mariners qualifying for an endorsement as described in paragraph 2.a above must demonstrate having achieved the

standards of competence in Table A-II/5 of the STCW Code. Mariners may demonstrate achieving the standards of competence by completing the assessments in Enclosure (2), or an equivalent alternative.

4. RENEWAL OF ENDORSEMENT. In order to renew an endorsement as AS-D, an applicant must have currently valid Basic Training as set forth in 46 CFR 12.602 and meet the general requirements for renewal of their national able seaman endorsement found in 46 CFR 10.227.