

Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, and Changes to Domestic Endorsements (Final Rule)

Office of Operational and Environmental Standards
Maritime Personnel Qualifications Division (OES-1)

January 2014



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Discussion Topics

- Background
- Important Dates
- Major Changes in the Final Rule



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Background

- Incorporates the STCW requirements, including the 2010 amendments by updating the regulations in 46 CFR subchapter B
- Ensures that U.S. mariners comply with the standards set forth in the STCW Convention and Code
- Other changes - reorganize, clarify and update National Endorsements & general requirements



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Important Dates

- December 24, 2013: Final Rule published
- January 24, 2014: Medical Certificate requirements become effective
- March 24, 2014: All other provisions of the Final Rule are effective
- January 1, 2017: Full compliance with the STCW-related requirements in this rule
- March 24, 2019: Transition period for national endorsements



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General Approach - STCW

- Existing training regulations/policy were found to be costly, inconsistent & lacked flexibility
- The NPRM included a great deal of training requirements
- In the SNPRM, the Coast Guard responded to comments by using all STCW flexibilities, thus minimizing the training requirements
- **In this Final Rule, the Coast Guard takes a balanced approach to training requirements**



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STCW Application

- Vessels operating beyond the boundary line
 - Vessels operating in U.S. near-coastal waters (200 nm offshore)
 - Vessels operating in near-coastal waters of a foreign country
- Vessels exempt from application
- Vessels not subject to any obligation under the STCW Convention due to their special operating conditions
 - Small vessels exclusively engaged on domestic voyages



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Questions/Feedback

- Questions specific to the final rule: submit to STCWASK@uscg.mil
- Feedback on the NVICs: submit to mmcpolicy@uscg.mil
- Questions on individual applications will be forwarded to the NMC for further action
- Answers to STCW related questions will be posted on the NMCs FAQ section of their web page



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Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, and Changes to Domestic Endorsements (Final Rule)

Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance
Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division (CVC-4)
February 2014



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Discussion Topics

- Medical certification
- Grandfathering
- Transitional provisions
- Training
- Assessments
- Course approval
- NVIC publication process
- Questions/feedback



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Medical Certification

- Mariners are unable to serve under the authority of their MMC without a valid medical certificate
- Must be renewed every two years for mariners serving on vessels subject to STCW and pilots
- Must be renewed every five years for all other mariners
- All mariners holding STCW endorsements should receive a medical certificate by March 24, 2014
- Expirations dates will be based upon MMC issuance date however will not exceed two years



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Medical Certification

- Application process
- Entry level mariners
- Mariners currently underway
- Lost medical certificates



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Grandfathering

- NVIC provides grandfathering and transitional information
- The CG will use this guidance when establishing deadlines for :
 - CG approved courses
 - Examinations & onboard assessments
 - Credential restrictions/limitations
- Current NVICs remain in effect until cancelled



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Transitional Provisions

- Enclosures to the Grandfathering NVIC provide transitional provisions for the following:
 - National Endorsements:
 - Example: Tonnage requirements, Limited endorsements
 - Courses
 - STCW Endorsements:
 - Example: Training requirements, Assessment requirements
 - Courses
- General transition dates



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Training

- Mariners may renew STCW certificates & endorsements issued before March 24, 2014 without additional service, training, or assessment until December 31, 2016 (possible limitations)
- Certain STCW endorsements require new training to renew after January 1, 2017 (i.e. leadership training)
- Basic training, advanced firefighting, proficiency in survival craft



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Assessments

- Final Rule retains requirements for demonstration of competence through assessments for STCW endorsements
- CG will publish guidance and model assessments for those endorsements that previously did not have them
- Certain newly established endorsements require assessments



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Course Approval

- STCW courses approved prior to the final rule may continue to be offered without modification until December 31, 2016.
- STCW Courses not in compliance with the final rule will not be approved after December 31, 2016.
- National endorsement courses approved prior to the final rule may continue to be offered without modification until March 24, 2019.
- National endorsement courses not in compliance with the final rule will not be approved after March 24, 2019.



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Course Approval Cont.

- Organizations with approved courses must maintain a Quality Standard System (QSS)
- Course approval NVIC will provide the following:
 - Sample course approval package
 - Course curricula guidelines
 - Guidance for courses using simulators
 - Guidance for distance and e-learning courses
 - Guidance on qualified instructors



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NVIC Publication Process

- 26 NVICs will be published to provide guidance on implementation of the final rule
- NVICs will provide a process for public comment
- Notice of Availability
- NMC's ListServ will be used to provide public notice
- NVICs will be linked to the National Maritime Center's webpage (www.uscg.mil/nmc/regulations)



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NVIC Publication

- 9 NVICs have been published:
 - Medical Certificates
 - Grandfathering
 - Course Approval
 - Proficiency in Survival Craft/Rescue Boats
 - Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats
 - RFPNW
 - RFNEW
 - Basic Training
 - Advanced Firefighting



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NVIC Publication Cont.

- Next group of NVICs will include STCW deck endorsements
- Following group will include STCW engine endorsements
- Last group will address general issues



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Implementation of the STCW Final Rule

National Maritime Center

February 2014



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Discussion Topics

- Issuance of Medical Certificates
- Issuance of Security Endorsements
- Grandfathering
- Exams & Qualified Assessors
- Webpage
- Questions/feedback



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When are medical certificates required?

- 1 Jan 2017 - Per STCW, 2010 Amendments
- 20 Aug 2013 - Per Maritime Labour Convention (MLC)
- Per STCW Final Rule:
 - 1 Jan 2017 for mariners on vessels to which STCW applies
 - 24 Jan 2019 for all other mariners



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Medical Certificates for mariners who sail internationally

- Within our database, ~55,000 mariners with STCW endorsements
- To implement immediately, NMC surging issuance to those mariners for 90 days beginning 02 Jan 2014
- STCW endorsement holders do not need to apply for a medical certificate during this period unless applying for a separate MMC transaction
- No fees associated with Medical Certificate issuance



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Medical Certificates for mariners who sail internationally (cont.)

- What you need to do to assist:
 - Ensure NMC has your current mailing address
 - Contact NMC if certificate not received by April
- Others for whom MLC applies – please contact NMC
- Status: 17,877 Medical Certificates have been issued as of 6 Feb 2014



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Short Duration Medical Certificates

- Approx 1600 medical certificates were issued with very short duration
- Expiration dates are Jan 2014 – Sep 2014
- NMC will reissue during existing surge with one year of additional validity
- Contact NMC if revised certificate not received by April



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Entry Level sailing internationally

- Entry Level with no STCW Endorsement (BST/BT certificate is held separately)
- Options:
 - Contact IASKNMC to request issuance of medical certificate (limited to exp of current MMC)
 - Submit CG-719K/E
- Mariners encouraged to add BST/BT to their MMC through normal application process



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Medical Certificates for mariners who sail nationally

- For mariners not subject to STCW (e.g. who sail only inside the boundary line):
- Beginning 24 January 2014:
 - NMC began issuing medical certificates to qualified mariners when processing applications that require medical evaluation
 - No specific fee required for medical certificate only
 - Normal fees required for MMC transaction



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Waivers/Restrictions/Limitations

- Mariners with certain medical conditions may receive a time limited certificate
- Will be recorded by notation of “waiver” on medical cert - it has not been determined if waiver letters will need to be signed and returned
- Medically related restrictions and operational limitations will only be reflected on the medical cert – no longer on the MMC



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How to apply for a medical certificate

- The CG-719K or CG-719 K/E serve as the application form for a medical certificate
- No CG-719B required for medical certificate only
- No fees apply
- Submit through an REC
- Lost medical certificates – mariners should submit a written request for duplicate



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Security Endorsements

- Dec 2013 thru Mid-Jan 2014 - Internal NMC Tiger Team operating in response to surge of security applications
- Security evaluations continued to be expedited during January
- Beginning 1 Feb, applications handled in order of receipt



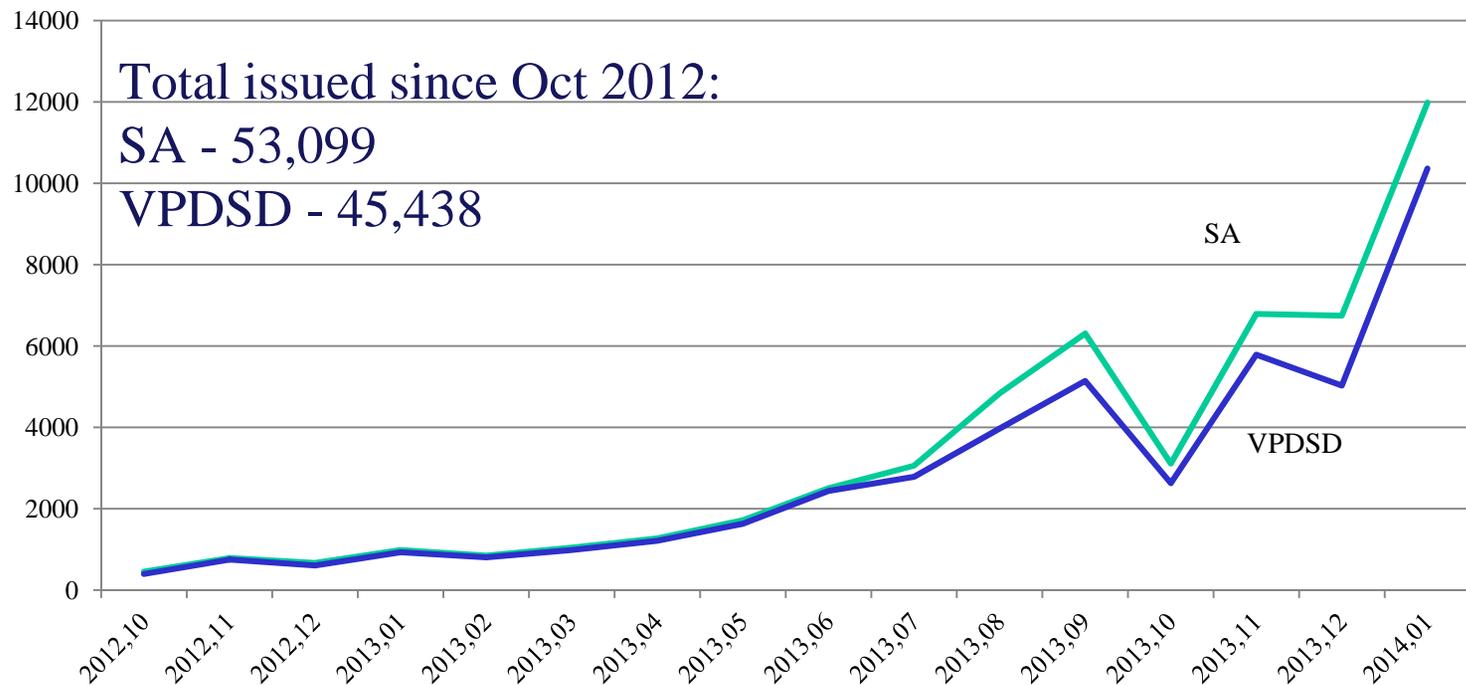
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Security Endorsement Issuance

- Endorsements issued prior to Oct 2012:
 - Security Awareness – 13,249
 - Vessel Personnel with Designated Security Duties – 11,814



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Grandfathering for STCW

- Mariners applying for STCW endorsements with service or training started before 24 Mar 2014:
 - may qualify for an endorsement under previous regulations until 31 Dec 2016
 - must meet additional training requirements by 31 Dec 2016
 - will receive limitation on endorsement if additional training requirements are not met
- Mariners with service or training started on/after 24 Mar 2014 may renew same as above



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Grandfathering for STCW (cont)

- Mariners with service or training started on/after 24 Mar 2014 applying for original or RIG must meet new regulation:
 - Specific transition periods for assessments
 - Mariners applying for management level endorsement who hold/have held operational level endorsement are not required to complete op level assessments unless specified in the regs



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Transition of Assessments

- Where assessments were required but not published, assessments will not required until 6 months after assessments are published
- Where assessments were required and previously published, mariners may continue to use previous assessments until 31 Dec 2016



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Grandfathering National Endorsements

- Mariners applying for National endorsements with service or training started before 24 Mar 2014, may qualify for an endorsement under previous regulations until 24 Mar 2019
- Mariners applying for National endorsements with service or training started on/after 24 Mar 2014, or mariners who apply after 24 Mar 2019, must meet new regulations
- NMC will default to previous regulations for those who qualify



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Sea Service Changes

- Sea service provisions applied to previous and new regulations:
 - 100GRT = min tonnage for master/mate unlimited
 - Tug & barge can be calculated based on aggregate tonnage for up to 50% service over 1600GRT for unlimited officer
 - Great Lakes service credited up 100% of total service requirement for deck near coastal & ocean endorsements
- NVIC 02-14 Grandfathering & Transitional Provisions



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Exams

- There are changes to structure and content of exams for certain national endorsements.
- Where applicants are qualified to be evaluated under previous regulations, they may also take previous exams
 - NMC will default to previous exams unless new exams requested
- Where applicants begin service or training after 24 Mar 2014, they will be examined under new regulations



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Exam Guide

- New Exam Guide will be available soon
 - Will outline exam requirements specified in subject matter tables contained in new Rule
 - Will be available on the NMC website
 - Current Exam Guide will also remain available until phased out through transition



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Qualified Assessors

- Will be required for STCW assessments completed after 31 Dec 2016
- NVIC pending
 - Will outline requirements for QA at various levels
- Application process similar to Designated Examiner process
- NMC will accept assessments signed by an assessor meeting current assessor requirements until 31 Dec 2016.



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NMC Webpage Updates

- Check for upcoming changes to NMC webpage
 - Previous STCW page incorporated into Evaluations
 - New STCW Rule page online soon
 - Revised checklists reflecting old and new requirements will be available on 24 Mar 2014
 - Comparison of requirement of previous and new regs
- STCW Rule FAQs at:

http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/stcw/new_STCW_rule_faq.asp



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