



## Delayed Enforcement of 2010 Amendments to the STCW Convention

The United States has encountered difficulties in fully implementing the 2010 amendments to the International Convention on Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW). These difficulties include reduced availability of some training courses for U.S. mariners and processing delays for U.S. merchant mariner credential applications. As a result, a portion of U.S. mariners may not currently meet the new STCW requirements and have had a service limitation placed on their credential. This limitation reads, “Not valid after December 31, 2016” and it was placed on credentials of mariners that may not have completed the gap closing requirements during their renewal process since 2012.

Many countries have experienced the same difficulties and at the recent session of the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee, it was recognized that Administrations are still working to confirm their mariners meet the requirements of these amendments. To assist these Administrations, a circular was developed ([MSC.1/Circ.1560](#)) that urges port State control authorities to consider the challenges being experienced by the Administrations and to delay enforcement of the 2010 amendments to the STCW until July 1, 2017. The United States will follow this guidance and will encourage other port States to do the same.

While the United States has implemented the requirements of the 2010 amendments into our regulations, some mariners are still working to meet those requirements. And while the IMO has urged a delay in the enforcement of the requirements it does not require Administrations to comply with the delay. As such, United States’ mariners are strongly encouraged to continue their pursuit of compliance with the new requirements. Mariners are also reminded that all applications, submitted on or after January 1, 2017, must fully comply with the requirements for STCW as published in the Federal Register on December 24, 2013.

The U.S. will be notifying port State control authorities around the world of the limitation associated with our transition to the new requirement and urge them not to delay ships where such mariners are serving on the vessel. Those mariners who have met the transitional training requirements and still have the service limitation on their MMC are encouraged to carry the applicable training records until their credential is updated.

# United States Coast Guard

Merchant Mariner Credentialing Program



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Information on how mariners are to meet these requirements can be found on the National Maritime Center's website, <https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/stcw/>. Questions may be directed to 1-888-427-5662 or via email to [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,

//M. Medina//

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Chief, Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing