

## Notice to all Mariners Serving on Vessels Subject to the STCW Convention

The 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention will come into force on January 1, 2017. These amendments were incorporated into regulation as part of the final rule titled “Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, and Changes to National Endorsements” (78 FR 77796). The rule included provisions that will have an impact on seafarers serving on vessels subject to the STCW Convention (vessels operating beyond the boundary line). This notice specifies the requirements that will become effective as of January 1, 2017.

### **STCW Gap Closing Requirements**

Gap closing requirements are additional training requirements that must be met to facilitate full compliance with the STCW Convention by January 1, 2017. Mariners with an operational- or management-level STCW endorsement will not be able to renew their endorsement after December 31, 2016, without meeting the following additional training and assessment requirements:

#### Deck Officers:

Operational Level Deck Officers (OICNW) must provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence in leadership and teamworking skills as described in Table A-II/1 of the STCW Code and Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 12-14. This requirement may be met by completing one of the following: 1) assessment numbers 18.1.A through 18.5.A in NVIC 12-14; or 2) a course in Leadership and Teamworking Skills; or 3) the Leadership and Managerial Skills course.

Management Level Deck Officers must provide evidence of successful completion of training in Leadership and Managerial Skills as described in Table A-II/2 of the STCW Code and NVICs 10-14 and 11-14.

#### Engineering Officers:

All engineering officers must complete approved training in Engine Room Resource Management, if not previously completed.

Operational Level Engineering Officers (OICEW) must provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence in leadership and teamworking skills as described in Table A-III/1 of the STCW Code and NVIC 17-14. This requirement may be met by completing one of the following: 1) assessment numbers 16.1.A through 16.4.A in NVIC 17-14; or 2) a course in Leadership and Teamworking Skills; or 3) the Leadership and Managerial Skills course.

Management Level Engineering Officers must provide evidence of successful completion of training in Leadership and Managerial Skills as described in Table A-III/2 of the STCW Code and Management of Electrical and Electronic Control Equipment. See NVICs 15-14 and 16-14.

### **Electronic Chart Display Information Systems (ECDIS) Limitations**

A limitation of “not valid for service on ECDIS equipped vessels” will be placed on STCW deck officer endorsements if evidence of required ECDIS training is not provided after January 1, 2017. This limitation or the limitation “Not valid for service on ECDIS equipped vessels after December 31, 2016” can be removed at any time, free of charge, by submitting a credential application (CG-719B) requesting a modification and including your course completion certificate.

### **Renewal of Certain STCW Endorsements on or after January 1, 2017**

There are new requirements that will take effect the first time a mariner renews an MMC with STCW endorsements on or after January 1, 2017. Renewal of basic training, advanced firefighting, and proficiency in survival craft requires evidence of revalidation training, refresher training, or a retake of the original training course.

#### **Basic Training (BT):**

To renew their BT endorsement, mariners must provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence in basic training as found in 46 CFR 11.302(b) or 46 CFR 12.602(b) and further described in NVIC 08-14, as follows: 1) provide evidence of completing a BT training course; or 2) provide evidence of 1 year sea service in the previous 5 years and provide evidence of completing BT revalidation training; or 3) provide evidence of completing BT refresher training.

## Advanced Fire Fighting (AFF):

To renew their STCW officer endorsement(s), mariners must provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence in Advanced Fire Fighting as found in 46 CFR 11.303(b) and further described in NVIC 09-14, as follows: 1) provide evidence of completing an AFF training course; or 2) provide evidence of 1 year sea service in the previous 5 years and provide evidence of completing AFF revalidation training; or 3) provide evidence of completing AFF refresher training.

## Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC):

To renew their PSC endorsement, mariners must provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence in proficiency in survival craft as found in 46 CFR 12.613(b) or 46 CFR 12.615(b) and further described in NVIC 04-14, as follows: 1) provide evidence of completing a PSC training course; or 2) provide evidence of 1 year sea service in the previous 5 years and provide evidence of completing PSC revalidation training; or 3) provide evidence of 1 year sea service in the previous 5 years and provide evidence of meeting the requirements for BT renewal as described above; or 4) provide evidence of completing PSC refresher training.

## **Qualified Assessor (QA):**

All assessments of competence for STCW endorsements must be signed by a Coast Guard-approved QA in accordance with 46 CFR 11.301(a)(1)(i) and 12.601(b)(1)(i). QAs must be approved by the Coast Guard either individually or as part of a Coast Guard-approved or accepted course or training program, as described in NVIC 19-14.

NVIC 02-14, (Grandfathering and Transitional Provisions for Merchant Mariner Credentials), Enclosure (2), allows for the acceptance of STCW assessments, performed for and signed by an assessor not approved by the Coast Guard, until December 31, 2016. Such an assessor must meet the professional requirements in 46 CFR 10.405(a)(3) to determine competence for the specific endorsement.

# National Maritime Center

Providing Credentials to Mariners



The Coast Guard is aware that as a result of the limited number of approved QAs, there may be a hardship on mariners trying to complete STCW assessments after December 31, 2106. In consideration of this, the Coast Guard will continue to allow STCW assessments to be signed by an assessor who meets the requirements specified in NVIC 02-14 until December 31, 2017. These assessments must be submitted to the Coast Guard as part of a complete application no later than June 30, 2018.

Additional guidance regarding transitional provisions for STCW endorsements are further described in NVIC 02-14 entitled Grandfathering and Transitional Provisions for Merchant Mariner Credentials, which may be viewed at the following website:

[https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/regulations/NVIC/NVIC\\_2014/nvic.asp](https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/regulations/NVIC/NVIC_2014/nvic.asp).

Mariners and interested parties should contact the Customer Service Center at [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil) or 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662) with any questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

//J. P. Novotny//

Jeffrey P. Novotny  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commanding Officer