

## Qualified Assessor Program

This is the second bulletin discussing the implementation of the U. S. Qualified Assessor Program established in 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](#)).

A [Qualified Assessor \(QA\)](#) is a person that the Coast Guard deems qualified to evaluate whether an applicant has demonstrated the necessary level of competence in the task for which the assessment is being made. A QA must be approved by the Coast Guard either individually or as part of a Coast Guard approved or accepted course or training program.

As noted in Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC), [NVIC 02-14](#), (Grandfathering and Transitional Provisions for Merchant Mariner Credentials, Enclosure (2)), the Coast Guard will accept STCW assessments that have been performed and signed by an assessor who has not been Coast Guard approved until December 31, 2016, provided that the assessor meets the professional requirements in [46 CFR 10.405\(a\)\(3\)](#) to assess competence for the specific endorsement.

The Coast Guard has issued a NVIC that clarifies the responsibilities of and requirements to become a [QA](#). A [Qualified Assessor Request Guide](#) is now posted on the NMC website, and the Coast Guard will now accept [applications](#).

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

Sincerely,

/J. P. Novotny/  
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard