

## Frequently Asked Questions: Policy Letters and Regulations

### 1. Where can I find information on Policy Letter 11-07?

To view information on Policy Letter 11-07, click [here](#).

### 2. What do Policy Letters 12-06 and 12-07 mean to me?

To view information on Policy Letters 12-06 and 12-07, click [here](#).

### 3. Do I have to meet the requirements for Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) in order to receive a domestic officer endorsement?

No. The Coast Guard no longer requires mariners to meet STCW requirements as a prerequisite to receiving domestic officer endorsements.

### 4. I previously held an STCW 78 and would like to apply for an STCW 95. What do I need to do?

Information on the requirements for this is located in [Coast Guard Policy Letter 02-03](#). Applicants will need to complete an STCW refresher course. This course should not be confused with the Basic Safety Training (BST) refresher course. The STCW refresher is more complex and covers different material. A mariner going from STCW 78 to 95 will also need to complete the below courses:

- BST
- Advanced Radar Plotting Aid (ARPA) (optional)
- Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) (optional)
- Bridge Resource Management.

If you do not wish to do this, you can meet the current STCW requirements for the international endorsement sought.

### 5. I want to apply for a Rating Forming Part of an Engineering Watch (RFPEW). What assessments do I need to complete?

[NVIC 01-06](#) contains information on how to obtain your RFPEW. Mariners wishing to be endorsed with RFPEW must complete several [assessments](#).

**6. I want to apply for a Rating Forming Part of A Navigational Watch (RFPNW). What assessments do I need to complete?**

[NVIC 14-02](#) contains information on how to obtain your RFPNW. Mariners wishing to be endorsed with RFPNW must complete several [assessments](#).

**7. Why was the Coast Guard's policy changed?**

The Coast Guard has determined that Policy Letter 01-02 imposed requirements that were in excess of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The new Policy Letter 11-07 removes the requirements that have been found to exceed those in the CFR and also clarifies several areas of confusion regarding Policy Letter 01-02.

**8. I applied for an Officer In Charge of a Navigational Watch (OICNW) endorsement before the policy letter was published. Does this policy apply to me?**

Yes. The policy applies to all applicants for an STCW endorsement as OICNW without regard for when or if they have previously applied for an OICNW endorsement.

**9. I applied for an OICNW endorsement and received an "awaiting information" letter telling me I need to take courses like "Terrestrial Navigation" and "Basic Meteorology." These are not required under the new policy. Do I still need to take those courses?**

No. The policy applies to all mariners seeking OICNW endorsements. All applications after the published date of this Policy Letter will not be required to complete any of the course previously required.

**10. I applied for an OICNW endorsement in the past and my application was not approved because I did not take all of the courses required in Policy Letter 01-02. My application has now "timed out" or expired. Do I need to re-apply for the OICNW endorsement?**

Yes. A mariner whose application has "timed out" or who was denied must re-apply by submitting a new application.

**11. My school has a course approved to meet part of the requirements in the cancelled 01-02 Policy Letter. Is that course approval still valid?**

Yes. All previously approved courses will remain valid until they expire or their approval is withdrawn or revised.

**12. My school has a course that was approved to meet training requirements now cancelled by Policy Letter 11-07. Can this course be used by mariners to meet OICNW assessment requirements?**

Yes, but only as specified in the course approval. The existing approval of the course will identify those assessments that are satisfied by the course. If a school would like to have its approval amended to include practical assessments, they should submit a request for modification of the course curriculum and/or approval to the NMC.

**13. I hold an officer endorsement as Master Not More Than 1600 GRT (or Master Not More Than 500 GRT) and am applying for an endorsement as 3rd Mate Any Gross Tons. Am I required to take an examination?**

Maybe:

- If you have never tested for Mate 500 GRT, Mate 1600 GRT, or Mate-OSV, or if you tested for these endorsements before February 1, 2002, you will be required to test for an endorsement as 3rd Mate or 2nd Mate. [46 CFR 11.910](#) requires mariners seeking endorsements as 3rd Mate to be examined on specific subjects.
- Mariners who obtained any of the listed endorsements in paragraph 3a of the Policy Letter by testing on or after February 1, 2002, will have taken the same examination as is given for 3rd Mate and will have already complied with the testing requirements in [46 CFR 11.910](#).

**14. Policy Letter 04-02 is similar to the cancelled Policy Letter 01-02. Is Policy Letter 04-02 still valid?**

The policy letter is valid until cancelled. However, an individual mariner's qualifications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.