

STCW Frequently Asked Questions: Recognition of Foreign Certificates

1. **(**ADDED 07/07/14**)** Does Mexico recognize near-coastal endorsements issued by the U.S. Coast Guard? Some mariners desiring to work in Mexican waters do not have oceans endorsements, but have been told that they will be able to work in Mexico because the Mexican government recognizes our near-coastal endorsements.

The U.S. has received acceptance of our near-coastal endorsements by some foreign Administrations. In those Administrations' near-coastal waters, the U.S. near-coastal endorsements may be used. The responsibility for enforcement of another Administration's near-coastal waters lies within their port state control procedures. We do not have a definitive list of those countries/Administrations that consider the U.S. near-coastal endorsements as being acceptable for service in such foreign coastal jurisdictions. All of the current informal agreements/understandings precede the 2010 STCW Amendments. In the near future, we intend to communicate with relevant Administrations to ascertain the status of such mariners.

2. **(**ADDED 07/07/14**)** U.S. – Canada memorandum of understanding: Can a mariner with an OUPV endorsement undertake a voyage with passengers from the U.S. to Canada on his or her national endorsement, or does he or she need an STCW endorsement?

Yes, you can undertake a voyage to Canada with your national OUPV endorsement. There is no associated STCW endorsement for the OUPV endorsement. Normally, OUPV operators are not allowed to undertake international voyages. However, the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Canada allows the use of domestic (or national) endorsements in cross-border trade; therefore, mariners with national OUPV endorsements may undertake voyages to Canada within the restrictions associated with their OUPV endorsement.

3. **(**ADDED 09/15/15**)** Which countries certificates of competency are recognized by the U.S.? Are green card holders able to serve as officers on board U.S. flagged vessels? Can you issue officer endorsements to permanent residents of the U.S.? Is there a list maintained by the U.S. of administrations whose certificate of competencies are recognized?

At present, the U.S. has not issued any recognition certificates for other Administration's certificates of competencies. The U.S. Code and federal regulations limit officer endorsements to U.S. citizens only. See 46 United States Code 7102 and 46 CFR 10.221.