

STCW Frequently Asked Questions: Basic Training

1. Am I required to take Basic Safety Training (BST) to get other STCW endorsements?

BST is not required for Security Awareness or VPDS. For all other STCW endorsements, valid BSTs are required. Continued competence in basic training, advanced firefighting, and proficiency in survival craft and/or fast rescue boats.

2. **(**AMENDED 07/22/15**)** Is Basic Safety Training (BST) now required to be repeated every 5 years regardless of whether a mariner sails or not? Before the Manila Amendments, the training did not have to be repeated if the mariner had recent service at sea.

Until January 1, 2017, mariners may provide evidence of having maintained the minimum standards of competence in basic training (formerly named basic safety training) by complying with 46 CFR 11.302(b) of the regulations in effect before publication of this Final Rule or documenting 12 months of service within the last 5 years. After January 1, 2017, mariners must provide evidence of maintaining the standards of competence in basic training every 5 years.

3. If a mariner has an MMC endorsed for entry-level only, but he or she sails on vessels to which STCW applies, and he or she holds a BT certificate, will the NMC now issue the VI-1 and BT endorsements on the MMC?

Yes. 46 CFR 10.109 specifies the issuance of the BT endorsement. Port state control officials may want to see the BT endorsement required by 15.1105(c).

4. **(**ADDED 02/14/14**)** Are mariners now required to renew their basic training every 5 years by attending classes all over again?

Consistent with pre-existing regulations, you must meet the renewal requirements for BT. Under this final rule, you will continue to be provided credit for your service (1 year of service within the last 5 years); however, you must also complete requirements ashore to renew the basic training on each renewal after January 1, 2017. Mariners without ongoing service will continue to be required to complete approved or accepted refresher training, or apply for a new endorsement. See 46CFR 11.302(b)-(e) and 12.602(b)-(e).

5. **(**ADDED 02/14/14**)** Since the name of basic safety training (BST) has now been changed to basic training (BT), should the schools change the names of their courses to match the new language in the BT NVIC as we renew?

While not required, and in order to avoid confusion, schools with approved BST courses are recommended to change the course name to basic training during their next renewal cycle.

6. **(**ADDED 02/14/14**)** With regard to basic training, what do you mean in NVIC 02-14 by the term “assessment conducted ashore”?

Some of the requirements for renewal or revalidation of the basic training endorsement cannot be performed safely onboard a vessel. Therefore, these components must be successfully demonstrated in Coast Guard approved training ashore.

These competencies are listed in 46 CFR 11.302(d) and 12.602(d), as well as in enclosure (1) of NVIC 08-14, “Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements in Basic Training (Formerly Basic Safety Training)”.

Beginning on 1 January 2017, these shoreside assessments must be completed every 5 years when renewing the basic training endorsement and/or your MMC.

7. **(**ADDED 02/14/14**)** Can I demonstrate onboard training and experience, through evidence of 1 year of sea service within the last 5 years, or do I have to take additional classes in order to renew my basic training endorsement?

Until 31 December 2016, you may demonstrate onboard training and experience through evidence of 1 year of sea service within the last 5 years. After that date, you must comply with the requirements of 46 CFR 11.302(d), since this requirement for renewal or revalidation of the basic training endorsement cannot be performed safely onboard a vessel.

8. **(**ADDED 02/14/14**)** Do mariners have to meet the new renewal requirements for basic training by 1 January 2017, or will it be at first renewal after 1 January 2017?

A – Mariners must comply with 46 CFR 11.302(b) and 12.602(b), as applicable, at the first renewal after 31 December 2016. Until that date, mariners may renew using the regulations and policy in effect before 24 March 2014.

9. (ADDED 02/14/14**) Will the Coast Guard accept sea service earned on a vessel operating inside the boundary line towards renewal of a basic training endorsement?**

Yes, the Coast Guard will accept inland service towards renewal of a basic training endorsement. You must demonstrate onboard training and experience, through evidence of 1 year of sea service within the last 5 years, on or after 1 January 2017. You will also have to document completion of shoreside assessments.

10. (ADDED 07/07/14**) If an entry level mariner who sails on vessels to which STCW applies wants to qualify for a basic training (BT) endorsement, what does he or she need to provide to the Coast Guard in order to apply for the endorsement besides a CG-719? Is there a fee, does he or she need a physical examination and, if so, which one? Does he or she need to provide the results from a drug test? What does he or she need to provide as proof of continued proficiency in BT? Can he or she show prior BT certificates and one year of sea service or does he or she need to provide certificates within the past 5 years?**

46 CFR 10.209 provides the general application requirements for merchant mariner credentials (MMCs), which includes requirements to undergo a drug test and physical examination. Entry level endorsements, for those serving on vessels to which STCW applies, must complete at least a CG-719K/E. The requirements for basic training (BT) may be found in 46 CFR 12.602. Renewal requirements for a BT endorsement are located in 12.602 (b) through (e). There is no fee associated with any STCW endorsement.

11. (ADDED 07/07/14**) If I renew my MMC now, and can provide proof of 12 months of sea service in the previous five years, will my renewed MMC satisfy the STCW basic training component of this final rule until my next renewal date? If not, what do I need to do to ensure that my MMC will be compliant with the STCW requirements for the next five years?**

Twelve months of seagoing service in the previous 5 years will meet the renewal requirements until the first renewal transaction after 31 December 2016. Where an STCW endorsement was required by the Coast Guard or where the vessel is conducting regular drills, inland service can be acceptable for renewal of basic training during the transition period.

12. (ADDED 07/07/14**) Firefighting: In accordance with STCW, there is a requirement for seafarers on fire teams to have basic fire fighting training. What is the requirement for firefighting training on a MODU if the seafarer is: 1) a rated seafarer on a fire team; and 2) a rated seafarer not on a fire team?**

Any credentialed seafarer, whether assigned to a fire team or not, serving on a MODU to which STCW applies must comply with the requirements of 46 CFR 12.602. That regulation states all applicants seeking an STCW rating endorsement must provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence for basic training. One of the elements of basic training is fire prevention and firefighting, as set out in Table A–VI/1–2 of the STCW Code.

13. (ADDED 07/07/14**) If I take a basic training (BT) course now, is it good for 5 years, or do I have to re-take it based on the BT renewal requirements valid after January 1, 2017?**

If you take a BT training course now, the course will be valid for 5 years from the date on the course completion certificate. At the first renewal of your merchant mariner credential after 1 January 2017 you must provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence for BT. (See 46 CFR 11.302(b) or 12.602(b).)

14. (ADDED 07/07/14**) I cannot meet the requirement for one year of sea service within the last five years. Do I need to take a 3-day or a 5-day refresher basic training course?**

You would need to take an approved basic training course or approved or accepted refresher training course. See 46 CFR 11.302(e). The length of the course would depend upon the length necessary for the course provider to cover the material required to be in the course. The National Maritime Center's website at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc> has a listing of all approved basic training and basic training refresher courses.

15. (ADDED 07/07/14**) I completed a lifeboatman course which included the first three sections of basic training (BT). It seems as though I simply need to complete firefighting in order to complete the BT requirements for STCW. Is that true? Or are there other courses or more paperwork that I would have to fill out?**

The four sections of BT are: 1-1 Personal Survival Techniques; 1-2 Fire prevention and Fire Fighting; 1-3 Elementary First Aid; and 1-4 Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities. If the lifeboatman course you took is also Coast Guard approved to meet sections 1-1, 1-3, and 1-4 of BT, then you need only complete a Coast Guard course approved for BT section 1-2 in order to meet all training requirements for an endorsement of BT. Additionally, for mariners serving on vessels to which STCW applies, applicants for entry level endorsements must complete at least a CG-719K/E. The requirements for BT may be found in 46 CFR 12.602. Renewal requirements for a BT endorsement are located in 12.602 (b) through (e). There is no fee associated with any STCW endorsement.

16. (ADDED 07/07/14**) STCW FAQ #4 for basic training states that, under the final rule, mariners with 1 year of sea time must also complete requirements ashore to renew the basic training (BT) endorsement at each renewal after January 1, 2017. It also refers to a refresher course for those who do not have the 1 year of sea time in the last 5 years. How exactly are the requirements ashore fulfilled for those with the required sea service? This is also referenced in question #10 in the STCW-FAQ General Questions section, which refers to revalidation for those with appropriate sea service. What is the difference between those who fall under the category of revalidation, and others who fall under the need for a refresher course and how does a mariner revalidate?**

For those mariners who have the required 1 year of sea time in the previous 5 years, some of the requirements for renewal of the BT endorsement cannot be performed safely onboard a vessel. Therefore, these components must be successfully demonstrated in Coast Guard approved revalidation training ashore. Those mariners who cannot meet the requirement for 1 year of sea service within the last 5 years will be required to complete approved or accepted refresher training, or apply for a new endorsement.

17. (ADDED 07/07/14**) STCW FAQ #4 for basic training (BT) states that mariners must comply with 46 CFR 11.302(b) and 12.602(b) at their first renewal after December 31, 2016. If a mariner renews his or her MMC before that date, will there be any limitations in the STCW portion of the MMC pertaining to BT after January 1, 2017, or when I revalidate for the first time after January 1, 2017?**

No, you will receive no limitation; however, you will be required to show evidence of meeting the continued competence in BT at your first renewal after December 31, 2016.

18. (ADDED 05/27/15**) If a mariner has 1 year (360 days) of relevant seagoing service in the last 5 years, is he or she required to take a BT Refresher course?**

Under the new regulations, every 5 years mariners must demonstrate that they retain the standards of competence for BT and advanced firefighting. For mariners who have 1 year of sea service during the previous 5 years, some of the competencies for BT can be demonstrated by having 1 year of sea service, but others that cannot be reasonably or safely demonstrated aboard ship need to be completed ashore. This may be done in a BT revalidation course that only covers the competencies and KUPs that cannot be done onboard ship. For mariners who do not have the 1 year of service in the previous 5 years, all competencies and KUPs must be demonstrated ashore in either a refresher course, or by re-taking the original course. Until December 31, 2016, applicants can qualify for BT renewal through completion of approved training or 1 year of sea service in the last 5 years.

19. (ADDED 05/27/15**) Advanced Firefighting: Regarding NVIC 09-14, will mariners who provide evidence of 1 year (360 days) of sea service in the last 5 still need to take an advanced firefighting refresher course?**

If a mariner has at least 1 year of sea service in the past 5 years, and he or she also completes the revalidation course described in 46 CFR 11.302(d), he or she not need to take an advanced firefighting course.

20. (ADDED 05/27/15**) When does the requirement to demonstrate continued competency in BT and/or advanced firefighting go into effect?**

The requirement to demonstrate continued competence in BT will take effect on the first renewal or raise of grade of an STCW endorsement that occurs after December 31, 2016.

21. (ADDED 05/27/15**) How often does the BT and/or advanced firefighting refresher or revalidation courses need to be taken?**

Mariners required to be proficient in BT or advanced firefighting must show that they have either had 1 year of service in the previous 5 years and completed a revalidation course in the previous 5 years, or that they have taken an approved comprehensive refresher course or complete original courses within the previous 5 years.

NOTE: *This applies to more than just applying for an original or renewal of an MMC, it also applies for port state compliance matters when mariners are required to have valid BT OR advanced firefighting to serve in their shipboard assignments.*

22. (ADDED 05/27/15**) In certain positions on our current Safety billet (i.e., Steward/Stewardess) have safety responsibilities for the mustering of passengers. Can these positions be limited in their training requirements to just Crowd and Crises management? Or will they also require Basic Training?**

Those persons serving in safety and environmental protection positions would require basic training. This training will either be documented as an endorsement on a credential or if no credential is issued the vessel will need to carry the documentary evidence. See 46 CFR 15.1105.

23. (ADDED 07/22/15**) Refresher. I have a question regarding an STCW certification. I received a certificate from one of my employees that states he has completed a Basic Safety Course (Refresher), which included the following:**

**Personal Survival Techniques (STCW A-VI/1-1);
Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting (STCW A-VI/1-2);
Elementary First Aid (STCW A-VI/1-3); and
Personal Safety & Social Responsibility (STCW A-VI/1-4).**

However, at the bottom of the certificate, it says: "Using the STCW 1978 Convention as amended, as guidelines, and for having been assessed by a qualified assessor in accordance with the approved method and criteria". Would this be a valid certificate if it states STCW 1978 or should it have STCW 95 listed instead? This certificate was issued in the Philippines on October 9, 2012.

Can you please advise?

The official title of the Convention is the International Convention on Standards and Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, therefore it would be appropriate to refer to the Convention as STCW 1978 as amended.

24. (**ADDED 09/15/15**) I know all the literature says that Basic safety revalidation must be completed by first upgrade or renewal after 2014. Does this apply if sailing on a U.S. Flagged vessel that is currently working overseas in the Black Sea? My concern is if inspected by Port State control in Romania we should have the Basic Safety Training revalidation prior to 01 Jan 2017.

Basic training revalidation was required as part of the renewal process for your current credential. At your first renewal after January 1, 2017, you will be required to complete the revised training requirements to revalidate basic training. As such, the current STCW basic training meets the requirements of STCW until your next renewal.