

STCW Frequently Asked Questions: Examinations

- 1. Chief engineer of steam, motor and/or gas turbine-propelled vessels. We provide training material for the engineer limited (near-coastal) and the chief engineer (limited-oceans). Will the exam subjects for the combined license include electronics?**

Yes, the chief engineer (limited) endorsement requires examination on electronics as listed in Table 2 to 46 CFR 11.950.

- 2. (**ADDED 02/14/14**) Examination Tables in Subpart I. Will the Coast Guard use the new subjects table when they test maritime academy students in the spring of 2014?**

The Coast Guard will not begin using the new examination tables for students in academy programs until 2016.

- 3. (**ADDED 07/07/14**) The final rule states that applicants who take examinations after 24 March 2014 will take the examination as discussed in the final rule. What subjects will applicants be tested on?**

Mariners who began training or service prior to 24 March 2014 will be examined under the old examination unless they request to be examined under the new examination regimen. Any examination will be based upon the knowledge requirements established in the regulations in 46 CFR Subpart I - Subjects of Examinations.

- 4. (**ADDED 07/07/14**) On the NMC website, the deck exams button has a diagram. Although there is an explanation of what is on the deck exam prior to 24 March 2014 there is no detail on what will be on the exam after 24 March 2014. There do not appear to be any different Xs or footnote indicators in the 46 CFR Table 11.910, which implies that the same criteria for the examinations still remain.**

Mariners who began training or service prior to 24 March 2014 will be examined under the old examination unless they request to be examined under the new examination regimen. Any examination will be based upon the knowledge requirements established in the regulations in 46 CFR Subpart I - Subjects of Examinations.

5. **(**ADDED 07/07/14**)** In the NMC deck and engine guide book, the exam codes indicate that the deck exams are combined (third mate/second mate and chief mate/master). For the engineer exams, the exam codes indicate that there are four separate exams with different modules for third assistant, second assistant, first assistant, and chief engineer.

The new deck and engine exam guide has not been published by the Coast Guard. However most, if not all, mariners testing at this time will have had service before 24 March 2014 and are, therefore, eligible to test under the old regulations. Those mariners examined since January 31, 2002 have been given exams that combined third and second assistant engineer and first assistant and chief engineer. This should be resolved in the upcoming revision to the exam guide.

6. **(**ADDED 07/07/14**)** The new regulations, published on 24 December 2013 indicate that officer endorsement exams for engineers will only be given for those seeking a third assistant or first assistant engineer endorsement (mariners will be eligible for second assistant and chief engineer endorsements after providing proof of 360 days of service on their current endorsement). However, in 46 CFR Table 1 to 11.910, it indicates that there are separate examinations for those seeking third mate, second mate, chief mate, and master endorsements.

The codes for 46 CFR Table 1 to 11.910 indicate that column #1 is for those seeking master/chief mate unlimited endorsements, while column #3 is for those seeking second mate/third mate unlimited endorsements. As indicated in 46 CFR 11.903, those seeking master or second mate endorsements are not required to take an exam.

7. **(**ADDED 07/07/14**)** The regulations and the NMC deck and engine guide book contradict each other. Since they are not consistent, many mariners are asking what the requirements are for the deck officer exams based upon the NMC posting. When will clarification be published to help mariners and the industry better understand what the NMC is doing? Is the NMC preparing to release the STCW Manila Amendment questions? Will questions be released for all level of examinations, or only for management level examinations?

The new deck and engine exam guide has not been published by the Coast Guard. Examination questions are updated annually on the NMC website. An update will be released at the same time the new deck and engine exam guide is released.

However most, if not all, mariners testing at this time will have had service before 24 March 2014 and are, therefore, eligible to test under the old regulations.

There are no specific new exam questions resulting from the Manila Amendments. Nor are there any examinations required for STCW endorsements.

8. **(**ADDED 05/27/15**)** It would eliminate a tremendous burden on the mariner if they were allowed to take their credential examination prior to having completed all of the required 360 days of sea service. This doesn't seem to be much of a burden on the NMC since they already allow the Academy students to sit before they complete all of their course work. This is similar, except it is sea service. 46 CFR 11.201 seems to provide that authority to the NMC.

Per 46 CFR 11.201(j)(1)(iii), applicants within an approved program will be approved to sit for an examination up to 6 months prior to completion of the program only if the applicant has provided all sea service and assessments before the examination date. This regulatory cite is applicable to any approved comprehensive program, including maritime academies.