

DISCUSSION OF QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENT
AS MASTER OR CHIEF MATE ON VESSELS OF 3,000 GT OR MORE
(MANAGEMENT LEVEL)

1. GENERAL. This enclosure provides guidance for deck officers to qualify for International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW) endorsements as Master or Chief Mate on vessels of 3,000 GT or more in accordance with Section A-II/2 of the STCW Code, 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 11.305 and 46 CFR 11.307.
2. SEA SERVICE, TRAINING, AND DEMONSTRATIONS.
 - a. In accordance with 46 CFR 11.305 and STCW Regulation II/2, an applicant for an STCW endorsement as Master on Vessels of 3,000 GT or More (Management Level) must provide evidence of:
 - 1) 36 months of service as officer in charge of a navigational watch on vessels operating in oceans, near coastal waters and/or Great Lakes; however, this period may be reduced to not less than 24 months if not less than 12 months of such service has been served as Chief Mate. Service on inland waters, bays, or sounds that are navigable waters of the United States may be substituted for up to 50 percent of the total required service. Experience gained in the engine department may be creditable for up to 3 months of the required service;
 - 2) Meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-II/2 of the STCW Code (incorporated by reference, see 46 CFR 11.102). This may be done by completing the assessments in Enclosure (2), or an approved equivalent alternative; and
 - 3) Having satisfactorily completed approved training in the following subject areas:
 - i) Advanced Ship Handling;
 - ii) Advanced Stability;
 - iii) Advanced Meteorology;
 - iv) Search and Rescue;
 - v) Leadership and Managerial Skills;
 - vi) Management of Medical Care;
 - vii) Electronic Chart Display Information Systems (ECDIS), in order to serve on a vessel with this equipment after December 31, 2016;
 - viii) Automatic Radar Plotting Aids (ARPA), in order to serve on a vessel with this equipment; and
 - ix) Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), in order to serve on a vessel with this equipment.
 - b. In accordance with 46 CFR 11.305(d), mariners holding an STCW endorsement as Master of Vessels of 500 GT or more and less than 3,000 GT are eligible for the

endorsement as Master on Vessels of 3,000 GT or More after completing 6 months of sea service as master of vessels of 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT and any training and/or assessment required for Master on Vessels of 3,000 GT or more not previously satisfied. Assessments that must be completed are noted in Enclosure (2).

- c. Mariners holding an STCW endorsement as Chief Mate valid on vessels other than offshore supply vessels of 3,000 GT or more who are raising the grade of their endorsement to Master on Vessels of 3,000 GT or More will not be required to submit management level assessments, and will not need additional training other than:
 - 1) Leadership and Managerial Skills (46 CFR 11.305 (a)(3)(iv));
 - 2) ARPA, to be valid for vessels with this equipment (46 CFR 11.305(a)(3)(vi));
 - 3) ECDIS, to be valid for vessels with this equipment after December 31, 2016 (46 CFR 11.305(a)(3)(vii));
 - 4) GMDSS, to be valid for vessels with this equipment (46 CFR 11.305(a)(3)(viii)).
- d. As specified in 46 CFR 11.307 and STCW Regulation II/2, an applicant for an STCW endorsement as Chief Mate on Vessels of 3,000 GT or More (Management Level) must provide evidence of:
 - 1) 12 months of service as the Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch (OICNW) on vessels operating in oceans, near coastal waters and/or Great Lakes. Service on inland waters, bays, or sounds that are navigable waters of the United States may be substituted for up to 50 percent of the total required service. Experience gained in the engine department on vessels may be creditable for up to 1 month of the required service;
 - 2) Meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-II/2 of the STCW Code (incorporated by reference, see §11.102). This may be done by completing the assessments in Enclosure (2), or an approved equivalent alternative; and
 - 3) Having satisfactorily completed approved training in the following subject areas:
 - i) Advanced Ship Handling;
 - ii) Advanced Stability;
 - iii) Advanced Meteorology;
 - iv) Search and Rescue;
 - v) Leadership and Managerial Skills;
 - vi) Management of Medical Care;
 - vii) ECDIS, to be valid for vessels with this equipment after December 31, 2016;
 - viii) ARPA, to be valid for vessels with this equipment; and
 - ix) GMDSS, to be valid for vessels with this equipment.

- e. In accordance with 46 CFR 11.307(d), mariners holding an STCW endorsement as Chief Mate of vessels of 500 GT or more and less than 3,000 GT are eligible for the endorsement as Chief Mate on Vessels of 3,000 GT or More after completing 6 months of sea service as Chief Mate of Vessels of 500 GT or More and less than 3,000 GT and any training and/or assessment required for Chief Mate on vessels of 3,000 GT or more not previously satisfied. Assessments that must be completed are noted in Enclosure (2).
- f. To qualify for an STCW endorsement as Master or Chief Mate on Vessels of 3,000 GT or More (Management Level), mariners must provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence for Basic Training (BT) (46 CFR 11.302) and Advanced Firefighting (46 CFR 11.303).
- g. Operational-level training and assessments are not required if the mariner holds or has previously held an STCW endorsement as OICNW or Master valid on vessels other than offshore supply vessels of 500 GT or more issued after 1997. Mariners who have not held an STCW endorsement as OICNW for 500 GT or More issued after 1997 must also meet the requirements of 46 CFR 11.309 for qualification as OICNW.
- h. Mariners may qualify for endorsements that are limited to near coastal waters by meeting all of the qualification requirements for the non-limited endorsement, with one exception. Assessments that are not relevant to near coastal voyages may be omitted. The assessments that may be omitted are as noted in Enclosure (2). Mariners may remove the near coastal limitation by completing the assessments that were not completed for the near coastal limited endorsement.

3. GRANDFATHERING AND TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

- a. Until December 31, 2016, the training specified in 46 CFR 11.305(a)(3) and 11.307(a)(3) is not required for mariners who began their service or training for the Master or Chief Mate 3,000 GT or More endorsement before March 24, 2014, other than ARPA or GMDSS which is required for the endorsement to be valid for vessels with this equipment. A mariner will be considered to have started service on the first day of their service that meets the requirements for the endorsement they have applied for. Training is considered to have started on the first day of training that results in the issuance of a Master or Chief Mate endorsement valid for vessels of 3,000 GT or More.
- b. Mariners may continue to qualify for their endorsement using previous model assessments until December 31, 2016.

4. RENEWAL OF ENDORSEMENT.

- a. To renew an endorsement as Master or Chief Mate on Vessels of 3,000 GT or More before January 1, 2017, mariners must provide evidence of meeting the general requirements of 46 CFR 10.227 to renew their national officer endorsement(s); and for the endorsement to be valid after December 31, 2016, provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence in Leadership and Managerial Skills. Mariners who do not provide evidence of meeting this requirement will receive a limitation on their endorsement indicating that it is not valid after December 31, 2016.

- b. To renew an endorsement as Master or Chief Mate on Vessels of 3,000 GT or More to be valid on or after January 1, 2017, mariners must provide evidence of:
 - 1) Meeting the requirements of 46 CFR 10.227 to renew their national officer endorsement(s);
 - 2) Meeting the standard of competence in Leadership and Managerial Skills (if not previously met);
 - 3) Successful completion of approved training for ECDIS, to be valid for vessels with this equipment; and
 - 4) Maintaining the standard of competence in the following:
 - i) Basic Training as specified in 46 CFR 11.302(b); and
 - ii) Advanced Firefighting as specified in 46 CFR 11.303(b).
- c. Assessment is not required for renewal of endorsement.