

**DISCUSSION OF QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STCW ENDORSEMENTS
AS MASTER OR CHIEF MATE OF VESSELS OF 500 GT OR MORE AND LESS
THAN 3,000 GT (MANAGEMENT LEVEL)**

1. GENERAL. This enclosure provides guidance to qualify for an International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW) endorsements as Master or Chief Mate of Vessels of 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT as specified in Section A-II/2 of the STCW Code, 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 11.311 and 46 CFR 11.313.
2. SEA SERVICE, TRAINING, AND DEMONSTRATIONS.
 - a. As specified in 46 CFR 11.311 and STCW Regulation II/2, an applicant for an STCW endorsement as a Master on Vessels of 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT (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 seagoing 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 for this endorsement to continue to be valid for service on vessels equipped 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. As specified in 46 CFR 11.313 and STCW Regulation II/2, an applicant for an STCW endorsement as a Chief Mate of Vessels of 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT (Management Level) must provide evidence of:

- 1) 12 months of service as officer in charge of a navigational watch on vessels operating on oceans, near coastal waters, and/or the 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 service requirements;
- 2) Meeting the standard of competence in Section A-II/2 of the STCW Code (incorporated by reference, see 46 CFR 11.102); 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, for this endorsement to continue to be valid for service on vessels with this equipment after December 31, 2016;
 - viii) ARPA, to be valid on a vessel with this equipment; and
 - ix) GMDSS, to be valid on a vessel with this equipment.
- c. Mariners holding an STCW endorsement as Chief Mate 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT will not be required to submit assessments or training other than Leadership and Managerial Skills (if not completed previously) when raising the grade of their endorsement to Master 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT.
- d. Operational-level training and assessments are not required if the mariner holds or has previously held an STCW 95 endorsement as OICNW valid on vessels other than offshore supply vessels of 500 GT or more. 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.
- e. To qualify for an STCW endorsement as Master or Chief Mate on Vessels of 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT (Management Level) mariners must provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence for Basic Training (BT)(46 CFR 10.302) and Advanced Firefighting (46 CFR 11.303).
- f. Mariners may qualify for endorsements that are limited to near-coastal waters. For this limited endorsement, mariners must meet 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 noted in Enclosure (3). 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, training specified in 46 CFR 11.311(a)(3) and 11.313(a)(3) is not required other than Bridge Resource Management, and also ARPA, and/or GMDSS for the endorsement to be valid for vessels with this equipment. In addition, ECDIS training is required for the endorsement to be valid for vessels with this equipment after December 31, 2016.
- b. Mariners who began training or service before March 24, 2014, will not be required to provide assessments for endorsements as Master or Chief Mate on Vessels of 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT until January 1, 2017. Mariners who began the service or training for their endorsement after March 24, 2014, must provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-II/2 of the STCW Code by completion of the assessments in Enclosure (2), or an approved equivalent alternative.

4. RENEWAL OF ENDORSEMENT.

- a. To renew an endorsement as Master or Chief Mate of vessels of 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT 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 500 GT or More and Less Than 3,000 GT 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); and
 - 3) 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.