

**DISCUSSION OF QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICER IN CHARGE
OF A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH ON VESSELS OF 500 GT OR MORE
(OPERATIONAL 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) endorsement as Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch (OICNW) on Vessels of 500 GT or More (Operational Level) in accordance with Section A-II/1 of the STCW Code and 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 11.309.
2. SEA SERVICE, TRAINING, AND DEMONSTRATIONS.
 - a. In accordance with 46 CFR 11.309 and STCW Regulation II/1, an applicant for an STCW endorsement as OICNW on vessels of 500 GT or more must provide evidence of the following:
 - 1) Seagoing service as follows:
 - i) Thirty-six months of seagoing service in the deck department 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; or
 - ii) Twelve months of seagoing service as part of an approved training program, which includes onboard training that meets the requirements of Section A-II/1 of the STCW Code;
 - 2) Having performed during the required seagoing service bridge watchkeeping duties, under the supervision of an officer holding an STCW endorsement as Master, Chief Mate, Second Mate, or OICNW, for a period of not less than 6 months;
 - 3) Meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-II/1 of the STCW Code. This may be done by completing the assessments in Enclosure (2), or an approved equivalent alternative;
 - 4) Satisfactory completion of approved or accepted training in the following subject areas:
 - i) Medical First Aid Provider;
 - ii) Radar Observer;
 - iii) Search and Rescue;
 - iv) Visual Signaling;
 - v) Bridge Resource Management (BRM);
 - vi) Terrestrial and Celestial Navigation, and Electronic Navigation Systems;
 - vii) Watchkeeping, including COLREGS and IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP);

- viii) Cargo Handling and Stowage;
 - ix) Ship Handling;
 - x) Stability and Ship Construction;
 - xi) Meteorology;
 - xii) Automatic Radar Plotting Aids (ARPA), to be valid on a vessel with this equipment;
 - xiii) Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), to be valid on a vessel with this equipment; and
 - xiv) Electronic Chart Display Information Systems (ECDIS), to be valid on a vessel with this equipment; and
- 5) Provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence for Basic Training (BT)(46 CFR 11.302), Advanced Firefighting (46 CFR 11.303), and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (46 CFR 12.613).
- b. Assessments are not required if the mariner holds or has previously held an STCW endorsement as Master (STCW II/2) valid on vessels of 500 GT or more other than Offshore Supply Vessels issued after 1997. This will apply regardless of when or how the mariner obtained their endorsement.
 - c. Experience gained in the engine department on vessels may be creditable for up to 3 months of the service requirements in paragraph (a)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section.

3. GRANDFATHERING AND TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

- a. Until December 31, 2016, the training specified in 46 CFR 11.309(a)(4) is not required for mariners who began their service or training for the OICNW endorsement before March 24, 2014, other than Bridge Resource Management. In addition, ARPA or GMDSS training is required 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 OICNW endorsement. Training is considered to have started on the first day of a period of training used to qualify for an OICNW endorsement.
- b. Mariners may continue to qualify for OICNW using the previous model assessments until December 31, 2016.

4. RENEWAL OF ENDORSEMENT.

- a. To be valid on or after January 1, 2017, in addition to the general qualification requirements found in 46 CFR 10.227 to renew a merchant mariner credential, each candidate for a renewal of an STCW endorsement as OICNW of vessels of 500 GT or more must provide evidence of the following:
 - 1) Meeting the standard of competence in Leadership and Teamworking Skills specified in 46 CFR 11.309(c)(1);
 - 2) Completion of approved or accepted training in ECDIS, to be valid on a vessel with this equipment as specified in 46 CFR 11.309(c)(2); and
 - 3) Maintaining the standard of competence in the following areas:
 - 4) Basic Training as specified in 46 CFR 11.302(b); and
 - 5) Advanced Firefighting as specified in 46 CFR 11.303(b).
- b. Assessments are not required for renewal of this endorsement.
- c. Mariners renewing their STCW endorsement as OICNW of vessels of 500 GT or more before January 1, 2017, who do not provide evidence of meeting the standard of competence in Leadership and Teamworking Skills specified in 46 CFR 11.309(c)(1) will receive a limitation on their endorsement indicating that it is not valid after December 31, 2016.