

**DISCUSSION OF QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER AND OFFICER  
IN CHARGE OF A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH ON VESSELS OF LESS THAN 500 GT  
LIMITED TO NEAR-COASTAL WATERS**

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 and Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch (OICNW) on Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters in accordance with Section A-II/3 of the STCW Code and 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 11.317 and 46 CFR 11.321.
2. SEA SERVICE, TRAINING, AND DEMONSTRATIONS.
  - a. As specified in 46 CFR 11.317, an applicant for an STCW endorsement as Master on Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters must provide evidence of:
    - i) Not less than 12 months of service as 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 service requirements; or
    - ii) Meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-II/3 of the STCW Code. The assessments described in Enclosure (2) may be used for this purpose; and
    - iii) Satisfactory completion of approved training in the following:
      - a) Medical First-Aid Provider;
      - b) Basic and Advanced Firefighting;
      - c) Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats;
      - d) Leadership and Managerial Skills;
      - e) ECDIS, to be valid on a vessel with this equipment to be valid for vessels with this equipment;
      - f) Radar Observer, to be valid on a vessel with this equipment; and
      - g) ARPA, to be valid on a vessel with this equipment;
  - b. As specified in 46 CFR 11.321, an applicant for an STCW endorsement as an OICNW on Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters must provide evidence of:
    - i) Seagoing service as follows:
      - a) Twenty-four months of service in the deck department 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 required service. Experience gained in the engine department may be creditable for up to 3 months of the required service; or
- b) Successful completion of an approved training program that includes seagoing service as required by the Coast Guard; or
  - c) Successful completion of training approved for this endorsement and 12 months of seagoing service; and
- ii) Meeting the standard of competence specified in Section A-II/3 of the STCW Code. The assessments described in Enclosure (2) may be used for this purpose; and
  - iii) Satisfactorily completing approved training in the following:
    - a) Medical First-Aid Provider;
    - b) Basic and Advanced Firefighting;
    - c) Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats;
    - d) Bridge Resource Management (BRM);
    - e) Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS), to be valid on a vessel with this equipment;
    - f) Radar Observer, to be valid on a vessel with this equipment; and
    - g) Automatic Radar Plotting Aids (ARPA), to be valid on a vessel with this equipment.
- c. To qualify for an STCW endorsement as an OICNW or Master of Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters, 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).
  - d. In accordance with 46 CFR 11.301(h) mariners qualified to hold any of the following national officer endorsements will also be qualified to hold an STCW endorsement corresponding to the service or other limitations of their license or officer endorsements. The vessels concerned are not subject to further obligation under STCW because of their special operating conditions as small vessels engaged in domestic, near-coastal voyages:
    - i) Masters, mates, or engineers endorsed for service on small passenger vessels that are subject to 46 CFR Subchapters T or K and that operate beyond the boundary line; and
    - ii) Masters, mates, or engineers endorsed for service on seagoing vessels of less than 200 GRT, other than passenger vessels subject to 46 CFR Subchapter H.

STCW endorsements issued in accordance with 46 CFR 11.301(h) will have a limitation to domestic, near coastal voyages.

3. GRANDFATHERING AND TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

- a. Until December 31, 2016, the training specified in 46 CFR 11.319(a)(3) and 11.321(a)(3) is not required other than ARPA, Radar Observer, or GMDSS which is required for the endorsement to be valid for vessels with this equipment. Training in ECDIS is required for the endorsement to be valid on 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 OICNW of Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters 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/3 of the STCW Code by completion of the assessments in Enclosure (2), or an approved equivalent alternative.

4. RENEWAL OF ENDORSEMENTS.

- a. To be valid on or after January 1, 2017, in addition to the general qualification requirements, found in 46 CFR 10.227 for renewal of any merchant mariner credential (MMC), each applicant for a renewal of an STCW endorsement as Master on Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters must provide evidence of successful completion of approved training in the following:
  - i) Leadership and Managerial Skills as specified in 46 CFR 11.317(b)(1); and
  - ii) ECDIS, to be valid on a vessel with this equipment as specified in 46 CFR 11.317(b)(2).
- b. To be valid on or after January 1, 2017, in addition to the general qualification requirements, found in 46 CFR 10.227 for renewal of any MMC, each applicant for a renewal of an STCW endorsement as OICNW on vessels of less than 500 GT limited to near-coastal waters must provide the following:
  - i) Evidence of meeting the standard of competence in Leadership and Teamworking Skills as specified in 46 CFR 11.321(b)(1);
  - ii) Successful completion of approved training in ECDIS, to be valid on a vessel with this equipment as specified in 46 CFR 11.321(b)(2).
- c. Applicants for a renewal of an STCW endorsement as OICNW or Master on Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters must also provide evidence of maintaining the standard of competence for BT(46 CFR 11.302) and Advanced Firefighting (46 CFR 11.303).
- d. Applicants for a renewal of an STCW endorsement as Master or OICNW on Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters who do not provide evidence of

successful completion of approved training in Leadership and Managerial Skills specified in 46 CFR 11.317(b)(1), or of meeting the standard of competence in Leadership and Teamworking Skills specified in 46 CFR 11.321.(b)(1), will receive a limitation on their credential indicating that it is not valid after December 31, 2016.

- e. Assessment is not required for renewal of endorsements as Master or OICNW on Vessels of Less Than 500 GT Limited to Near-Coastal Waters.