

Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) & STCW Certification for Unlicensed Personnel

I. Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) for Unlicensed Personnel

Q. What is a Merchant Mariner Credential or MMC?

A. All mariners employed aboard U.S. merchant vessels greater than 100 Gross Register Tons (Domestic Tonnage), except operators of uninspected passenger vessels, are required to have a valid U.S. Merchant Mariner's Credential (MMC). An MMC is not a guarantee of finding work, but rather a certification allowing you to work in the shipboard merchant marine industry.

Q. What kind of work can I do with an MMC?

A. With an MMC, you may work in the Deck, Engineering, or Steward's department of a ship depending on the type of Rating for which you apply. The Deck dept is concerned mainly with the navigation and operation of a ship. The Engineering dept is concerned mainly with the propulsion and maintenance of machinery on a ship. The Steward's dept is concerned mainly with the supplies and food services of a ship.

Q. Where can I get an MMC?

A. You may apply for an MMC at any of the 17 Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers (RECs). There are several requirements to satisfy including the completion of an USCG MMC application form (CG-719B), and payment of user fees.

USCG User Fees original MMC:

Application Evaluation \$95

Issuance \$45

Total \$140

II. Guide to applying and qualifying for STCW certification for unlicensed personnel -

The requirements from the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) on training and certification for unlicensed merchant marine personnel are formally contained in Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 12 and the STCW Code. This guide attempts to summarize the requirements and answer the most common questions on meeting STCW for certification. Delays in processing your application due to incomplete information are easily avoided by following this guide closely. To ensure that your application is complete and is reviewed as quickly as possible, use the General Requirements listing on page 5 as a checklist when you prepare your application package.

General Information

What is STCW? - STCW is the acronym for the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended. The U.S. regulations were designed to closely conform to the 1978 STCW Convention (STCW-78). The 1995 amendments to STCW (STCW-95) added requirements for additional and more comprehensive training along with assessments of professional demonstrations of a mariner's practical skills. STCW-95 also significantly revised the process by which a mariner qualifies for STCW certification. The U.S. regulations were revised in 1997 in order to meet the requirements of the 1995 STCW amendments.

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Who must comply with the STCW? - With very few exceptions, the STCW only applies to mariners employed on vessels greater than 200 Gross Register Tons (Domestic Tonnage), or 500 Gross Tons (ITC Tonnage), operating seaward of the boundary lines specified in Title 46 CFR Part 7.

How do I prove that I comply with the STCW requirements? - You must hold a currently valid U.S. merchant mariner credential and an STCW Endorsement form certifying that you have met the minimum requirements of STCW. However, the STCW form alone may not satisfy all of the STCW requirements and proof of additional training or proficiency may need to be presented to your employer depending on what duties you will be performing.

Where can I get a STCW form? - You may apply for an STCW form at no cost by mail or in person at any of the RECs.

General Requirements

III. U.S. Merchant Mariner Credentials

A. What U.S. credentials do I need?

For unlicensed personnel, you must meet all the requirements for and obtain a U.S. Merchant Mariner's Credential (MMC). The STCW form is based on the ratings allowed by your MMC.

B. Which Unlicensed Ratings apply to STCW?

All unlicensed MMC ratings for service beyond the boundary line (seagoing service) are subject to the requirements of the STCW. However, ratings that form part of a watch or qualification as a Lifeboatman (LBMAN) have enhanced training requirements under STCW-95 beyond STCW-78 and U.S. domestic requirements.

IV. Training and Demonstrated Proficiency

Since February 1, 2002, you must fully comply with STCW-95 and obtain an STCW-95 form because the STCW-78 forms become invalid on that date. If you started service or training on or after August 1, 1998, then you must fully comply with all of the requirements of STCW-95 to be issued your first MMC valid for service on a seagoing vessel.

A. What do I need for the STCW-95 form? You must first meet the domestic requirements in Title 46 CFR Part 12, for each specific MMC rating (See THE MMC Guide below).

For STCW specific requirements, select the rating(s) in the left-hand column for which you are qualified and read across that row. The blocks with an 'X' in the vertical columns indicate the additional STCW training requirements needed to obtain the STCW-95 form. The last column indicates rating specific training required by STCW-95 as well as the regulatory citation from the STCW Code for the specified training.

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MMC Guide			
Service or Training started ON or AFTER August 1, 1998.	Basic Safety Training	Proficiency in Survival Craft	Rating Specific Training
Able Seaman (AB) - Unlimited, Limited or, Special	X	2	4
Able Seaman (AB) - OSV, Fish Industry, MOU or, Sail	X	3	4
Lifeboatman	X	2	5
Ordinary Seaman (OS)	X1	N/A	N/A
Ordinary Seaman - Qualified as a Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch	X3	N/A	6
QMED - Any Rating, Oiler, Fireman,/Watertender, Junior Engineer, Deck Engineer, Machinist, Electrician, Refrigeration Engineer or, Pumpman.	X1	N/A	7
Wiper (WI)	X1	N/A	N/A
Steward Department, e.g. Food Handler (FH)	X1	N/A	N/A
<p>FOOTNOTES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not required for the rating, but may be required if you are filling part of the vessel's crew compliment and need to obtain the STCW-95 Form. 2. Policy Letter 08-01 may apply - IN SERVICE QUALIFICATIONS AS A LIFEBOATMAN AND CERTIFICATION AS PROFICIENCY IN SURVIVAL CRAFT AND RESCUE BOATS. 3. Policy Letter 05-01 may apply - LIFEBOATMAN AND PROFICIENCY IN SURVIVAL CRAFT (PSC) QUALIFICATIONS FOR SERVICE ON VESSELS NOT EQUIPPED WITH LIFEBOATS. 4. STCW Regulation A-III/4 Certification of Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch, and A-VI/2 Proficiency in Survival Craft applies. 5. STCW Regulation A-VI/2 Proficiency in Survival Craft applies. 6. STCW Regulation A-II/4 Certification of Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch applies. 7. STCW Regulation A-III/4 Certification of Rating Forming Part of the Engineering Watch applies. 			

B. What is Basic Safety Training (BST)?

The STCW BST requirements are contained in Reg. VI/1 of the STCW code. BST is required for those persons serving in a position that must be filled as part of the required crew complement or assigned a responsibility on the muster list. This training is comprised of four elements: personal survival techniques, fire prevention and fire fighting, elementary first aid, and personal safety and social responsibilities. See NMC Policy Letter No. 5-99 on what is considered acceptable evidence of BST.

C. What is Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC)?

This means that you have obtained sufficient training in survival craft and, if applicable, fast rescue boats as per Reg. VI/2 of the STCW Code. See NMC Policy Letter No. 8-01 on what is considered acceptable evidence of PSC.

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D. How do I provide proof of Rating Specific training?

The training requirements are specified in the STCW regulations cited in the STCW-95 Form requirements table above. See NMC Policy Letter No. 4-01 on what is considered acceptable evidence of certification as a "Rating forming part of a navigational watch." Currently, there are no "relaxed assessments" for certification as a "Rating forming part of an engineering watch" and proof consists of a course completion certificate from a Coast Guard approved or accepted course or under certain circumstances certification from a designated examiner attesting to your proficiency.

E. What additional training is required for service on passenger vessels?

If you are going to work on a RO-RO passenger ship or a passenger ship other than a RO-RO vessel in a position where your duties are related to the safety of passengers, then you must obtain training to meet Reg. A-V/2 or A-V/3 of the STCW Code. The training covers assisting passengers, crowd control, passenger safety, and other training directed towards the safety of the passengers and the vessel. This training is not required to obtain the STCW form, but is a requirement of employment and proof of completion must be provided to your employer. Currently, there are no "relaxed assessments" and proof consists of a course completion certificate from a Coast Guard approved or accepted course or under certain circumstances certification from a designated examiner attesting to your proficiency.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MMC:

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General Requirements for Merchant Mariner's Credential (MMC)					
Item.	General Requirements - Reference 46 CFR	Reference			
1.	CG-719B Application Complete.				
2.	Explanation if YES marked in Section II of the Application CG-719B.				
3.	National Driver Registry (NDR) Consent signed on Application CG-719B.	12.02-4			
4.	Age - minimum age 16 for original MMC.	*MSM Volume III, Ch 1.G.2.a			
5.	Citizenship and INS Status:				
	• Proof of U.S. Citizenship.	12.02-13			
	• Proof of Foreign Citizenship (Non - US Only).	12.02-14			
	• Legal Immigration Status (Permanent Residence).	12.02-10			
6.	Identification:				
	• Copy of Transportation Worker Identity Credential (TWIC) card or, • Copy of TWIC enrollment application				
7.	Social Security Number (Original MMC).	12.02-17			
9.	Certification of Fitness or CG-719K/E for Entry level Ratings; CG-719K for Qualified Rating (AB/QMED/Lifeboatman & Tankerman).	12.02-17(e)			
10.	DOT/USCG Drug Test (within 6 months) or enrollment in Drug Testing Program.	16.220			
13.	User Fees <input type="checkbox"/> Eval <input type="checkbox"/> MMC Issue <input type="checkbox"/> Other	12.02-18			
MMC User Fees:					
MMC with Entry Level Ratings (OS/Wiper/Steward)		Evaluation	Issuance	Total	
Original		\$95	\$45	\$140	
Renewal		\$50	\$45	\$95	
MMC with Qualified Ratings (AB/QMED/Lifeboatman/Tankerman, etc.)		Evaluation	Examination	Issuance	Total
Original or Endorsement		\$95	\$140**	\$45	\$280
MMC Renewal with Qualified Ratings.		\$50	\$45**	\$45	\$140
License and MMC Renewal.		\$50	\$45**	\$90	\$185
<p>*Marine Safety Manual (MSM). **Examination Fees; only required if CG exam for ratings or, for renewals if a comprehensive open book renewal exams need to be administered.</p>					