

## **ENGINE QUESTIONS**

### **WHAT YOU NEEDED TO KNOW, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK**

The Coast Guard has for many years has received feedback to its multiple choice questions used in developing its deck and engineer licensing examinations. Recently, the Coast Guard has been tracking not only the success or failure of the selection of the correct answer assigned to the question in its database of questions, but also the frequency of the selection of all incorrect answers. Through these cumulative processes, a more intense “quality assurance” program has been developed to benefit the mariner when being tested in an effort to eliminate ambiguous questions and answers, and to validate that the keyed answer is in fact correct.

To assist the Coast Guard in this task, the questions posted in this section have been provided with a detailed explanation to support the reasoning for the selection of the correct answer as stored in the license question data banks. Just as important, the remaining incorrect answers, or distracters, have also been provided with an explanation as to why the incorrect items are unacceptable as being correct.

Many of these questions and their explanations may have previously been published in the Coast Guard’s ***Proceedings*** magazine in the section titled as ***Nautical Queries*** and represent questions that have been published since September 2003. Consequently all of the previously published questions will be posted here to provide the complete pool of questions previously published. Please note that questions which normally require an illustration and would have also been selected could not be published due to space limitation in the magazine. Further, you will also note that questions posted here may designated as “Modified Questions”. This third group represents questions that were identified during the expanded write-up as needing the addition or exchange of words within the question to clarify the question or that of the answers. After reviewing this material you should have gained increased sense of understanding and a level of knowledge that had not been previously attained.