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NMC Guidance Document 01-04

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From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center
To: Distribution

Subj: PROCESSING AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE AS MASTER OF TOWING
VESSELS AFTER 21 MAY 2004

Ref: (a) Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (46 CFR), paragraph 10.464(g)
(b) Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 04-01, *Licensing and Manning for Officers
of Towing Vessels*

1. PURPOSE. This document provides guidance to Regional Examination Centers (RECs) about the processing of applications for a license as master of towing vessels in accordance with reference (a) after 21 May 2004. Reference (b) provides information and guidance about the requirements of the regulations.

2. ACTION.

- a. Commanding Officers of marine safety units with an REC should be guided by the information in this guidance document. Vessel operators, maritime labor organizations, individual mariners, and maritime training institutions may also find this information useful.
- b. The guidance in this document may assist applicants in meeting the requirements of references (a) and (b). This guidance is not a rule. It is not intended to, nor does it, impose legally binding requirements on any party.
- c. This guidance document will only be distributed electronically. It is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uscg.mil/stcw/index.htm> (click on Info Center then on Policy and Guidance).

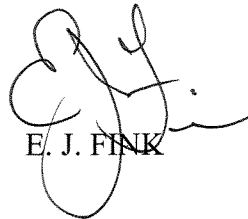
3. DISCUSSION.

- a. Reference (a) states that an applicant for a license as master of towing vessels who began the service or training to qualify for the license before 21 May 2001 may be issued that license provided the applicant completes the examination and meets other specified requirements prior to 21 May 2004. The intent of this regulation was to permit mariners who were in training to receive the former license as operator of uninspected towing vessels at the time the regulation became effective to continue their career without interruption. Reference (b) provides broad guidance about the requirements for the

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issuance of licenses limited to service on towing vessels and about the crewing requirements for towing vessels.

- b. Due to unprecedented workload, most RECs have significant backlogs. Some applicants may have completed all requirements to qualify for the license by 21 May 2004 with the exception of the examination; however, due to the RECs' backlogs they cannot complete the test before the cutoff date.
 - c. If, before 21 May 2004, an applicant applies for a license as master of towing vessels in accordance with references (a) and (b) and has met all the requirements to qualify for the license except for the examination, the application should be approved. The cutoff date for completion of the examination may then be extended to 21 November 2004.
4. EXPIRATION. This guidance document is cancelled on 21 November 2004.



E. J. FINK

Dist: Commandant (G-MSO)
Area Commanders (Am)
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COs, all MSOs
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