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NMC Policy Letter 17-02

NOV 5 2002

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

To: Distribution

Subj: CHANGES TO APPROVAL OF TRAINING COURSES BY THE MINERALS
MANAGEMENT SERVICE (MMS)

Ref: (a) Title 46, Code of Federal Regulation, Section 10.470

1. PURPOSE. This policy letter provides guidance about the acceptance of proofs of training for courses required by reference (a) that were formerly approved by MMS.
2. ACTION.
 - a. Commanding officers of units with marine safety responsibilities should bring this policy letter to the attention of;
 - 1) The maritime and offshore exploration industry with interests in marine personnel issues; and
 - 2) Training institutions that have previously provided MMS approved training.
 - b. This policy letter will be distributed by electronic means only. It is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uscg.mil/STCW/m-policy.htm>.
3. BACKGROUND. Reference (a) requires that an applicant for a license as an offshore installation manager (OIM) in the on-station mode, which includes OIM unlimited, complete a course(s) in blowout prevention and well control approved by the MMS. MMS recently revised their scheme for approving courses and now places this responsibility for the training and course content on the operator of the drilling unit and the training facility. MMS no longer approves courses.
4. DISCUSSION. An applicant for an OIM license who is required to complete the training requirements listed in paragraph 3 above will be unable to do so because the courses are no longer approved by MMS. As proof of having completed the training, Regional Examination Centers should accept a letter or certificate from the applicant's employer or a training provider certifying that the candidate has completed the well control and blowout prevention training necessary to perform his or her duties.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. J. Fink".

E. J. FINK

Dist: Commandant (G-MSO); Area Commanders (Am); District Commanders (m); COs Marine Safety Offices: Activity Commanders; RECs

