



16721
NMC Policy Letter 01-03
16 January 2003

From: Commanding Officer, USCG National Maritime Center
To: Distribution

Subj: CHANGE 1 TO POLICY LETTER 08-01

Ref: (a) National Maritime Center (NMC) Policy Letter 08-01, *Qualification as Lifeboatman and Certification as Proficient in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats*

1. PURPOSE.

- a. This policy letter amends reference (a) by changing the table in paragraph 4 to clearly define the provisions for qualification as a lifeboatman without meeting the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW). This change clarifies the qualifications for service as a lifeboatman on seagoing vessels that are not subject to the STCW, such as dredges or barges.
- b. The guidance in this document may assist industry and individual mariners to meet the requirements of the regulations. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to, nor does it impose, legally-binding requirements on any party. Applicants for the credentials addressed in this policy letter may propose alternatives to qualify for these credentials. Such alternatives should be forwarded to the U. S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center for evaluation against the regulatory standards.

2. ACTION.

- a. Commanding officers of units with a Regional Examination Center (REC) shall be guided by the information in this policy letter.
- b. Commanding officers of units with marine safety responsibilities should bring this policy letter to the attention of the maritime industry and to institutions within their area of responsibility that offer U. S. Coast Guard approved training. 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. DISCUSSION.

- a. Reference (a) established guidelines to qualify for a lifeboatman's endorsement on a merchant mariner's document and, if necessary, an STCW endorsement as proficient in survival craft and rescue boats (PSC). Experience shows that occasionally an applicant is

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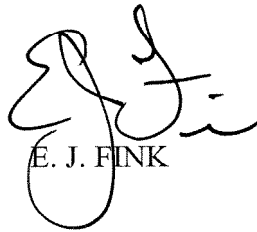
required by regulation to qualify as lifeboatman for ocean or near coastal service; however, PSC qualification is not required.

- b. To clearly provide for these occasional situations, the table in paragraph four of reference (a) is revised as indicated below.

QUALIFICATION ↓	ELEMENTS* ⇒	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
LIFEBOATMAN/PSC		X		X	X	X	X	X
LIFEBOATMAN NON STCW & INLAND		X		X	X	X	X	
LIFEBOATMAN LIMITED** / PSC			X		X	X	X	X
LIFEBOATMAN LIMITED** NON STCW & INLAND.			X		X	X	X	

*The elements are: 1. Lifeboatman written exam; 2. Survival craft written exam; 3. Lifeboat demonstrations; 4. Rescue craft demonstrations; 5. First aid element of basic safety training (BST); 6. Personal survival techniques element of BST; 7. All other BST training.

**Limited means limited to service on vessels not equipped with lifeboats.



E. J. FINK

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