



March 8, 2011

## Delayed Issuance/License Creep

The purpose of this bulletin is to emphasize long standing Coast Guard Policy regarding delaying the issuance of a Merchant Mariner Credential for renewal applicants to closely coincide with the expiration date of a current credential. The Coast Guard first codified Delayed Issuance in NMC Policy Letter 09-03. Recent changes to the Code of Federal Regulations eliminate the need to codify this practice in a formal manner. Policy Letter 09-03 is no longer valid and will be removed from circulation; however, the long standing business process for Delayed Issuance will remain in place. In keeping with the letter and spirit of the regulation, mariners may request that the issuance of their MMC be delayed to closely coincide with the expiration of their current credential under the following conditions:

- Mariners must specifically request Delayed Issuance of their credential in writing on their application (719B) when it is submitted to the Coast Guard. Requests received after application acceptance will be considered on a case by case basis. The Coast Guard will not be able to approve requests for delayed issuance once the credential is issued.
- The Coast Guard will, if Delayed Issuance has been requested, hold the credential in a ready to print status for up to twelve months from the date that the Coast Guard accepts the application, which is normally the date it is received by the Regional Exam Center•
- Credentials will be issued approximately 1 month prior to the expiration date of the current credential to allow adequate time for delivery. The production process cannot accommodate requests for specific issue dates.
- Under Delayed Issuance, the Coast Guard cannot delay the issuance of specific MMC Endorsements. We will not issue a partial credential while delaying a particular in future changes to the 719B Application Form.

This process is considered a standard business practice that assists the mariner by minimizing the potential for what has long been termed "License Creep". This information will be further published various places on the National Maritime Center's Website and incorporated in future changes to the 719B Application Form.

Sincerely,

**A. S. Lloyd**  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard