



July 6, 2010

Changes to Mariner Examination Questions Posting

The United States Coast Guard National Maritime Center (NMC) recently found a non-conformity during a routine internal audit of one of its core programs. In order to maximize marine transportation safety and ensure conformity with the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Program's Mission Management System, the Coast Guard will no longer post *actual* mariner examination questions on the NMC website. Effective July 12, 2010, the full set of deck and engineering questions and answers will be removed from the NMC Website. They will be replaced with sample deck and engineering questions and answers for review by mariners.

The Coast Guard is removing the deck and engine exam questions from the website of the National Maritime Center to protect the integrity of the exam and the Coast Guard's regulation of licensed mariners. The Coast Guard sets standards to ensure that credentialed mariners are adequately skilled and knowledgeable to protect the public. The examination of mariners is an integral part of the evaluation process in determining whether a prospective mariner should receive a credential. Removing the deck and engine exam questions will facilitate an examination of prospective mariners' seamanship and maritime knowledge rather than their knowledge of the questions and answers posted on the website.

Recognizing that many customers use the examination questions to prepare for required mariner examinations, the NMC will post similar *sample* questions that are published in Coast Guard publications and periodicals. Sample deck and engine exam questions can be found on NMC's web site at http://uscg.mil/nmc/training/2010q3_sample_deck_questions.pdf (deck) and http://uscg.mil/nmc/training/2010q3_sample_engineering_questions.pdf (engine). Modifications to the Mariner Examination Deck and Engine Guide will also be forthcoming to reflect these important changes.

Sincerely,

D. C. STALFORT
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard