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National Maritime Center

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16721
NMC Policy Letter
06-01

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

Subj: QUALIFICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TYPE RATING ENDORSEMENTS
AUTHORIZING SERVICE ON HIGH-SPEED CRAFT

Ref: (a) International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft (HSC Code)
(b) Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 6-99, Plan Review, Inspection, and Certification Guidance for Vessels Built to the International Code of Safety for High Speed Craft and Additional Information Regarding Non-Code High-Speed Vessels

1. This policy letter provides guidance for the qualification of mariners to serve on high-speed craft and issuance of license endorsements for mariners serving onboard high-speed craft as defined under the HSC Code. It does not apply to non-Code high-speed vessels. These vessels' operations are currently being reviewed and may be addressed in future rulemaking or policy.
2. High-Speed Craft (HSC) are vessels designed, constructed, outfitted, and operated according to references (a) and (b). They are capable of operating at high rates of speed necessitating higher levels of vigilance and training for crewmembers. Vessels built to the HSC Code are required to fully comply with all the requirements of the code.
3. The code requires that the master and all officers having an operational role be type rated. Type rating is a periodic process that involves physical examination, operational/simulator training, and practical demonstrations leading to an assessment of competence commensurate with the operational tasks required for a particular model/type of craft and specific route.
4. Masters, mates, and engineers seeking a Type Rating Certificate (TRC) must hold a valid U. S. Coast Guard license authorizing service in the appropriate grade, tonnage/horsepower, and route of the vessel for which type rating is required. U. S. Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers (REC) will certify a mariner's type rating by issuance of a TRC. Other members of the crew are required to receive training in accordance with section 18.3 of reference (a), but are not required to hold TRCs.
5. Qualification for a TRC requires successful completion of a Coast Guard approved training program. Guidance for the development of training programs leading to the certification of mariners onboard high-speed craft is provided in enclosure (1).

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6. The physical condition of an applicant for type rating must be carefully evaluated by the REC at the time of application for the license endorsement. Mariners operating these craft must be capable of dealing with the more rigorous demands of high-speed operations such as: high rates of closing speed, reduced reaction times, and greater reliance on hand-eye coordination. A request for further evaluation of medical conditions or for waivers should include a statement that the mariner is applying for type rating on HSC.
7. A mariner seeking a TRC must submit the following documentation to the REC:
 - a. Valid license and, if appropriate, an STCW form for vessels of commensurate grade, tonnage, route, and when appropriate, horsepower;
 - b. Evidence of successful completion of an approved, type rating training program as outlined in enclosure (1); and
 - c. Report of a physical examination completed not more than 12 months prior to issuance of the endorsement.
8. Mariners who qualify for a TRC will be issued a form CG-899, Endorsement To License. The CG-899 will serve as the United States' equivalent of the TRC and will be issued with a two-year expiration date. A separate TRC will be issued for each type and model craft. The route will be specified commensurate with the authorized route of the vessel and qualifying experience. Sample endorsements are provided, see enclosures (3) & (4), as well as a sample Merchant Mariner License and Documentation System (MMLD) license data entry screen print, enclosure (5).
9. Additional routes may be added to an existing TRC following completion of at least 12 round trips over the route to be endorsed on the type craft to be operated under the supervision of a type-rated master. Six of the trips must be made during the hours of darkness or a "daylight only" restriction will be imposed. The expiration date of the TRC will not be changed due to the addition of an additional route.
10. The HSC Code specifies that TRCs will be issued with a 2-year expiration/revalidation period. Mariners must qualify for renewal/revalidation of a TRC by submitting:
 - a. A report of physical examination that meets the published standards completed not more than 12 months prior to the date of renewal/revalidation; and
 - b. Evidence of at least 6 months service in the appropriate position on the type craft(s) to which the type rating certificate applies during the preceding two years, including at least 12 round trips over each route, together with evidence of a completed revalidation assessment; or
 - c. Evidence of completion of an approved revalidation training program; or

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d. If unable to meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) or (c) above must complete the initial qualification requirements.

11. Mariners who previously qualified under local Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) approved programs are eligible for this endorsement restricted to the type and model craft and the route(s) for which currently qualified without further training and/or assessment. Mariners who began training within local OCMI approved training prior to the issue date of this letter may be issued a TRC following successful completion of that program if completed prior to September 30, 2001. These same mariners may utilize existing company training programs for the first revalidation of existing TRCs following the publication date of this letter.

12. User fees are applicable for both evaluation and issuance of an HSC endorsement. Revalidation of TRCs shall be assessed as a License Endorsement and applicable evaluation and issuance fees charged. If revalidation occurs in conjunction with a license renewal or upgrade, only the fees relative to the license will be assessed. Upon renewal of a license, a new TRC must be issued corresponding to the new license.

13. The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW) has not imposed standards for the operation of high-speed craft. Therefore, STCW forms will not reflect type ratings.

M. S. BOOTHE

Encl: (1) Guidance For Establishment of High-Speed Craft Course Approval
(2) Contents of training programs
(3) Sample Type Rating Certificate
(4) Sample Type Rating Certificate
(5) Sample MMLD license data entry screen print

Dist: All District Commanders (m)
Commandant (G-MSO)
All COs MSOs
All Activity Commanders
All RECs

GUIDANCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH-SPEED CRAFT COURSE APPROVAL

This enclosure provides guidance for the development of training programs leading to the issuance of TRCs to mariners onboard high-speed craft.

- Ref: (a) NVIC 5-95, Guidelines for Organizations Offering Coast Guard Approved Courses
(b) NVIC 6-97, Policy on Qualified Instructors and Designated Examiners Who Train or Assess the Competence of Merchant Mariners
(c) COMDINST 16000.8B, Marine Safety Manual (MSM), Vol. III, Chapter 7
(d) Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations Subchapter B, Subpart C
(e) National Maritime Center (NMC) Policy Letter 7-98, Submission of Applications for Course Approval
1. Training providers seeking approval of a program to qualify applicants for a high-speed craft type rating must comply with the requirements of references (a) through (e). Requests for approval of high-speed craft, type rating, training programs shall be submitted to the National Maritime Center and must include the curricula, qualified instructors, competencies, and performance measures and standards.
 2. To qualify for approval, a type rating training program must include:
 - a) an appropriate period of operational underway training and classroom instruction followed by assessment of knowledge and skills;
 - b) performance of appropriate number of round trips over the route applied for;
 - c) instruction in the knowledge and practical skills listed in enclosure (2); and
 - d) practical assessment at the conclusion of the training.
 3. The period of training is dependent upon the complexity of the craft and the nature of the route. Each will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Up to one third of the underway instruction may be performed on simulators. The performance-based training and assessment shall be performed onboard the specific type of craft. At least 24 hours of classroom instruction and 96 hours of practical onboard instruction/training, including 40 hours while underway, should be provided.
 4. Training programs submitted for approval shall include all skill proficiencies to be evaluated and related assessment criteria. Assessment criteria must include: the performance condition under which the assessment will be conducted, the performance behavior the candidate must demonstrate, and the performance standard that is the step by step procedure the candidate must follow.
 5. Training programs should include instruction and assessment for revalidation of type rating certificates. Revalidation programs should include learning objectives covering modifications to the craft and/or systems, equipment, route, or company operations and underway assessment onboard the type craft for which the revalidation is required.
 6. Instructors designated to teach and monitor operational aspects of HSC shall be experienced in the operation of the specific craft type, meet the requirements of a qualified instructor as prescribed in reference (b), and hold a TRC for the type craft. Instructors involved with underway route training and familiarization must hold a TRC for the craft and waters upon which the craft is operated.

7. When performing the final assessment of mariners in the type-rating program, training providers are encouraged to utilize assessors who are not involved in the underway training.
8. Designated examiners (DE) may be used to conduct assessments. Applicants for approval must meet the requirements as defined in reference (b), be experienced in the operation of the specific craft type, and hold a TRC for the type craft on which the assessment will be performed.
9. Vessel operators establishing a new route or introducing a new vessel may not be able to strictly comply with the above requirements. The U. S. Coast Guard's National Maritime Center will consider alternatives that provide an equivalent level of training for initial qualification of mariners required for initiating the new operation.

The training program must include performance measures to be used:

HSC Code Citation (18.3.3)	Type Rating Training Subject	Master & Officers		
		Training	Practical Assessment	Written Assessment
.1	knowledge of all on-board propulsion and control systems, including communication and navigational equipment, steering, electrical, hydraulic and pneumatic systems and bilge and fire pumping	X	X	X
.2	the failure mode of the control, steering and propulsion systems and proper response to such failures	X	X	X
.3	handling characteristics of the craft and the limiting operational conditions	X	X	X
.4	bridge communication and navigation procedures	X	X	X
.5	intact and damage stability and survivability of the craft in a damaged condition	X		X
.6	location and use of the craft's lifesaving appliances, including survival craft equipment	X		X
.7	location and use of escapes and the evacuation of passengers	X		X
.8	location and use of fire protection and fire-extinguishing appliances and systems	X		X
.9	location and use of damage control appliances and systems, including operation of watertight doors and bilge pumps	X		X
.10	cargo and vehicle stowage securement systems (when fitted)	X		X
.11	methods for control of and communication with passengers in an emergency	X		X
.12	location and use of all other items listed in the training manual (18.2.3)	X		X
18.6.1	Control and evacuation of crewmembers (passenger craft)	X		X

U.S. Department
of Transportation



United States
Coast Guard

ENDORSEMENT TO LICENSE

Serial No.
123456

Issue No.
1

TEST TEST O'DONNELL

SSN 132-13-2132

DATE: 23-MAR-2001

MASTER OF HIGH SPEED CRAFT (PRS 54M TRICAT) UPON NEAR COASTAL
WATERS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO FROM NAPLES, FLORIDA TO KEY WEST,
FLORIDA. ALSO, UPON INLAND WATERS OF LONG ISLAND SOUND FROM NEW
LONDON, CONNECTICUT TO NEW YORK, NEW YORK. THIS ENDORSEMENT
EXPIRES ON MARCH 23, 2003.

SEATTLE, WA

Port

T. WILCOX, LTJG, USCG, BY DIR

Officer-In-Charge, Marine Inspection

DEPT. OF TRANSP., USCG, CG-899 (Rev. 2-92)

Enclosure (3)

U.S. Department
of Transportation



United States
Coast Guard

ENDORSEMENT TO LICENSE

Serial No.

123456

Issue No.

1

TEST TEST O'DONNELL

SSN 100-00-2536

DATE: SEPTEMBER 03, 2000

MASTER OF HIGH SPEED CRAFT (23M SWATH/PTC) UPON NEAR COASTAL
WATERS FROM SEATTLE, WASHINGTON TO BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON. THIS
ENDORSEMENT EXPIRES ON SEPTEMBER 03, 2002. - - - - -

SEATTLE, WA

Port

A. DEMO, LTJG, USCG, BY DIR

Officer-in-Charge, Marine Inspection

Navigation Links

Trans Type *: *LOV*
Suspension Code: *LOV*
Issue Num *:
Serial Num:
Issue City *: *LOV*
Issue State *: *LOV*
Issue Date:
Expiration Date:
Type Code *: *LOV*
Grade *: *LOV*
Type Description: DECK OFFICER
Grade Description: MASTER
Propulsion: *LOV*
 NOT APPLICABLE
Vessel: *LOV*
 OF HIGH SPEED CRAFT
Tonnage: *LOV*
 NOT APPLICABLE
Horsepower: *LOV*
 NOT APPLICABLE
Water: *LOV*
 UPON NEAR COASTAL WATERS.
Special: *LOV*
 THIS ENDORSEMENT EXPIRES ON
Entered by *: MWASHBUR
Date Entered *: 16-MAR-2001 03:16:33

- [Special Codes](#)
- [Special Water Description](#)
- [License Text](#)