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NMC Policy Letter No. 07-01
5 Apr, 2001

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

Subj: RECOGNITION OF TRAINING COURSES APPROVED OR ACCEPTED BY FOREIGN
ADMINISTRATIONS

1. This policy letter provides information concerning the acceptability to the United States of training courses approved or accepted by Parties other than the United States to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW).
2. This policy letter supersedes and replaces NMC Policy Letter 3-98 dated January 28, 1998.
3. The Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization clarified the requirements for acceptance by one Party of the STCW of training carried out under the approval of another party to the STCW in STCW.7/Circular 7 dated May 20, 1998. The pertinent text extracted from the circular reads as follows:

“.1 training carried out under the STCW Convention which does not lead to the issue of an appropriate certificate and on which information provided by a Party is found by the Maritime Safety Committee to give full and complete effect to the Convention in accordance with regulation I/7 paragraph 2, may be accepted by other Parties to the Convention as meeting the relevant training requirements thereof.”

4. Under the above interpretation, all training required by the STCW Code A tables in chapters II and III must be approved or accepted by the U. S. Coast Guard if the training is part of, or leads to, the issuance of an STCW certificate by the United States. Because the tables in chapters II and III often refer to training set forth in other chapters and tables, that training is also included under the requirement for approval or acceptance by the U. S. Coast Guard. Other training such as GMDSS training and training for service on tankers lead to endorsements on STCW certificates and are therefore also included in the requirement for domestic approval or acceptance. The only exceptions to the requirement for U. S. Guard approval or acceptance of training is that training required by STCW Chapter V regulations V/2 and V/3 and training for persons designated to take charge of medical care.
5. The STCW requires that all training and assessments of seafarers be carried out in accordance with the STCW Code A, Section A-I/6. To ensure that the high standards of training required by the STCW are maintained for U. S. mariners, the U. S. Coast Guard will not generally accept training in the areas noted in the exceptions to the approval requirements. In unique situations or to accommodate training not available within the U. S., special consideration will be given to acceptance of a course or program leading to proficiency in any of the excepted areas. Course

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offerers requesting consideration of a course for approval or acceptance must be prepared to demonstrate the unique situation or other reasons for special consideration.

6. This policy letter will be distributed by electronic means only.

//s//
M. S. BOOTHE

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