

## U.S. Coast Guard Changes Process for Applying for Renewal of a Merchant Mariner Credential

By Christian Spain

Vice President, Government Relations

Applications for a Merchant Mariner Credential (original or renewal) should now be submitted directly to the National Maritime Center at the following email address: [MMCApplcations@uscg.mil](mailto:MMCApplcations@uscg.mil). Regional Exam Centers (RECs) will no longer accept most MMC applications.

If you submit your application to an REC, expect delays and/or other issues in processing by the Coast Guard.

RECs will continue to accept applications for First-Class Pilotage and Local Limited Merchant Mariner Credentials. For more information about submitting applications to RECs, visit the National Maritime Center website (<https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/recs/>).

All renewal applications should be submitted eight months prior to expiration, even if you are on a ship. Due to relief delays, waiting until you get home to submit your application is not advisable. Medical Certificate renewals should be submitted six to eight months prior to expiration, depending on the length of your rotation.

As I wrote a few months ago, AMO's Government Relations office in Washington, D.C. can often assist members who are having issues with the National Maritime Center when renewing or upgrading a Merchant Mariner Credential, adding certifications and endorsements, or renewing a Medical Certificate. However, in the last eight months, the number of members contacting Alaina Basciano and I for assistance has significantly increased. The majority of these issues are the result of renewal applications not being submitted in a timely manner and/or neglecting to properly fill out the application.

MMC renewals are accepted up to eight months prior to their expiration date. License creep for renewal applications is no longer an issue due to the ability to post-date the credential. Renewals submitted prior to the expiration of a current MMC will result in a renewed MMC dated one day after the expiration of the current MMC *unless early issuance is requested, as may be the case when upgrading/renewing or adding an endorsement*. This option can be selected on the bottom of Page 3 on the CG-719B form under Section II beginning: "FOR RENEWAL TRANSACTIONS ONLY ..."

As a reminder, all engineering and deck officers who require STCW certification on their Merchant Mariner Credential in order to sail are required to complete U.S. Coast Guard approved Basic Training and Advanced Firefighting Revalidation courses, as well as 360 days of sea service, and to include proof of course completion in their application package when submitting documents to the Coast Guard for MMC renewal, or for an upgrade including a renewal. This came into effect in January 2017.

The National Maritime Center provided information on June 26 that processing time for Medical Certificates will be at least 90 days until further notice. The NMC will only entertain limited requests for expedited processing. Please ensure that you submit for Medical Certificate renewal a minimum of six months from its expiration. The National Maritime Center only accepts Medical Certificate applications (CG-719K) electronically via [MEDAIP@uscg.mil](mailto:MEDAIP@uscg.mil). Submitting documents through the Coast Guard's established electronic system is the best way to ensure that your interactions with any REC and the NMC can be tracked and documented.

It is highly advised you ensure the correct boxes are checked in Section II of your CG-719B form prior to submission. Checking too many options is just as bad as not checking enough. Incorrectly filling out this section of the form is the number one issue we are seeing with members and will inevitably cause delays in your application and possible errors in your new MMC. Please reach out to Captain Kathleen Friel or Captain Bob Silva if you have ANY questions regarding how you should complete this form. Please take two minutes to look at the renderings of the CG-719B form here to help avoid issuance of a renewed MMC with errors. **DO NOT SUBMIT MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS IF YOU NOTICE AN ERROR OR ARE EXPERIENCING DELAYS.**

It is also advised you include scans of your current MMC and TWIC as PDF files.

If you have any questions, please email me at [cspain@amo-union.org](mailto:cspain@amo-union.org) or call me at 202-658-8887.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
U.S. Coast Guard  
APPLICATION FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL (FORM CG-719B)

OMB No. 1625-0040  
Exp. Date: 03/31/2021

**Section I: Applicant Information**

1. Legal Name: Last      First Name      Middle Name      Suffix (*Jr., Sr., III*)      Alias(es) or Maiden Name(s) if applicable

2a. SSN (*for Original only*)      2b. Reference Number (*if applicable*)      2c. Alien Registration Number (ARN) (*if applicable*)      3. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

4. Citizenship      5a. Place of Birth (*City*)      5b. State      5c. Country      5d. Color of Eyes      5e. Color of Hair

**Applicant Address and Contact Information (Please indicate best method(s) of contact by checking the appropriate box(es)).**

6a. Home Address (*PO Box NOT acceptable*)     

Street Address      6c. Primary Phone Number     

City      State      Zip Code      6d. E-mail Address     

6b. Delivery/Mailing Address, if different (*PO Box acceptable*)     

Street Address      6e. Alternate Phone Number     

City      State      Zip Code      6f. Other     

**Next of Kin/Emergency Contact (Please indicate best method(s) of contact by checking the appropriate box(es).) (Optional)**

7a. Mailing Address, City, State, Zip Code Same address as above      7b. Relationship (*Optional*)     

Name      7c. Primary Phone Number (*Optional*)     

Street Address      7d. Alternate Phone Number (*Optional*)     

City      State      Zip Code      7e. E-mail Address (*Optional*)     

**Section II: Requested Coast Guard Credential(s) Credential or Endorsement Type(s) Requested:**

**PLEASE SEE NOTE (1) BELOW**

Endorsement Category	Transaction Type ( <i>Check all that apply; See instructions for definitions and additional requirements for the transaction below</i> )					
	Original	Renewal	Duplicate	Raise of Grade, New Endorsement or Increase in Scope	Certificate of Registry	Document of Continuity
Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Qualified Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STCW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entry Level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Description of Endorsement(s) Desired: Include all appropriate information - Officer (*i.e. Deck - Master/Mate/Propulsion/Tonnage/Route/United States Registered Pilot OR Engineer Grade - 3rd AE; DDE/Propulsion/Horsepower*) Ratings (*i.e.: Able Seaman, Tankerman, QMED, Lifeboatman*) (Please Print)

**PLEASE SEE NOTE (2) BELOW REGARDING FILLING OUT THIS BOX**

**PLEASE SEE NOTE (3) BELOW REGARDING USE OF THIS CHECK BOX**

FOR RENEWAL TRANSACTIONS ONLY: I request to waive the post-dating feature and to have my merchant mariner credential (MMC) issued immediately. I decline having its issuance coincide with the expiration date of my current credential.

CG-719B (04/17)

Page 3 of 5

**NOTES TO CG-719B PAGE 3:**

**NOTE (1):** You must select everything the U.S. Coast Guard will need to include on your renewed Merchant Mariner Credential. When renewing, you **MUST** select Officer, Qualified Rating AND STCW in order to receive ALL of your previous endorsements/credentials on your MMC. If you miss one of these boxes, the Coast Guard will **NOT** automatically include that item on your MMC.

**NOTE (2):** You must list **EVERYTHING** that currently appears or needs to appear (such as new endorsements) on your credential. Separate your listing into two categories: DOMESTIC and INTERNATIONAL (STCW).

**For example:**

- **DOMESTIC:** Master, Unlimited Upon Oceans; Mate (Pilot) of Towing; Tankerman PIC (DL); Lifeboatman, etc.
- **INTERNATIONAL (STCW):** DICNW, RFPNW, AB-Deck, Survival Craft, Fast Rescue Boat, Medical PIC, Advanced Chemical Tanker Cargo Operations, VPDSO, GMDSS Operator, Basic Training, etc.

**NOTE (3):** Only check this box if you are adding an endorsement and/or upgrading as part of the renewal process. By checking this box, your credential will be issued more rapidly with an immediate effective date. If you do not check this box, your credential will be post-dated one day after the expiration of your current MMC to prevent license creep.

PLEASE SEE NOTE BELOW

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
U.S. Coast Guard

OMB No. 1625-0040  
Exp. Date: 03/31/2021

APPLICATION FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL (FORM CG-719B)

Section III: Safety and Suitability

1. TWIC (Transportation Worker's Identification Credential) EXEMPTION STATEMENT - I have previously applied for a TWIC with TSA and I am exempt from holding a valid TWIC under Coast Guard Policy Letter 11-15. I understand that a name based safety and suitability check could significantly delay the processing of my Merchant Mariner Credential Application.

2. Criminal Record (*Convictions and Drug Use*): If you answer Yes to ANY of the questions below you must disclose the information regarding the conviction. You may complete the optional form CG-719C for each question marked "Yes".

- a) Have you ever been a user of/ or addicted to a dangerous drug, including marijuana, within the last 10 years?  Yes  No
- b) Have you ever been convicted of violating a dangerous drug law of the United States, District of Columbia, or any state, or territory of the United States?  Yes  No
- c) Have you ever been convicted by any court-including military court - for an offense other than a minor traffic violation?  Yes  No
- d) Have you ever been convicted of a traffic infraction arising in a connection with a fatal traffic accident, reckless driving or racing on a highway or operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of, or impaired by, alcohol or a controlled substance?  Yes  No
- e) Have you ever had your driver's license revoked or suspended for refusing to submit to an alcohol or drug test?  Yes  No
- f) Have you had a drug test with a result other than negative within the last 10-years?  Yes  No

3. National Driver Registry (NDR) Consent (*Mandatory for Original, Renewal, or new Officer Endorsement*): I authorize the National Driver Registry to furnish the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) information pertaining to my driving record. This consent constitutes authorization for a single access to the information contained in the NDR to verify information provided in this application. NOTE: Not required for Document of Continuity applicants. I understand the USCG will make the information received from the NDR available to me for review and written comment prior to disapproving my application or taking any action against my Merchant Mariner's Credential. Authority: 46 U.S.C. 710(g), 46 U.S.C. 7302(c), and 46 U.S.C. 7505.

Section IV: Mariner's Consent/Certification

1. Mariner Outreach System (*Optional*): I consent to voluntary participation in the Mariner Outreach System to be used by the Maritime Administration (MARAD) in the event of a national emergency or sealift crisis. In such an emergency, MARAD would disseminate my contact information to an appropriate maritime employment office to determine my availability for possible employment on a sealift vessel. Once consent is given, it remains effective until revoked either by subsequent application or by sending a signed notice of revocation to the U.S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center, 100 Forbes Dr., Martinsburg, WV 25404. For more information, please visit <https://mos.marad.dot.gov/>.

Yes, I would like to participate  No thanks, I do not wish to participate at this time

2. FOR CONTINUITY RENEWAL ONLY

I understand that a Document of Continuity is not valid for use in accordance with 46 CFR 10.227 and aware of the requirements to obtain an MMC. STCW endorsements may not be placed in continuity per 46 CFR 10.227.

3. CONSENT: I am under 18 years of age and a notarized statement of parental/guardian consent is attached.

4. Certification

My signature below attests that:

- All information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand an application determined to be fraudulent may result in the denial of my application for one year from the date of submission, even if the fraudulent information was not by itself cause for denial or prosecution.
- I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully and honestly, according to my best skill and judgment, and without concealment and reservation, perform all the duties required of me by the laws of the United States. I will faithfully and honestly carry out the lawful orders of my superior officers aboard a vessel.

5. Applicant's Signature

Signature of Applicant

X \_\_\_\_\_

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Signature of individual authorized to administer the Oath. This is required only once for a mariner.

X \_\_\_\_\_

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Name of individual authorized to administer the Oath: \_\_\_\_\_

CG-719B (04/17)

Printed Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Page 4 of 5

NOTE TO CG-719B PAGE 4:

**DO NOT CHECK THE BOX (1. TWIC) if you possess a current and valid TWIC. Please read the entire text of the entry (1. TWIC) for clarification.**