



STAR Center

Simulation, Training, Assessment & Research

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Notice Regarding Celestial Navigation Requirements for Upgrading From 2nd Mate to Chief Mate Unlimited

In order to upgrade from 2nd Mate to Chief Mate unlimited, the USCG requires that the following celestial navigation practical assessments/control sheets be completed in accordance with USCG NMC Policy Letter 04-02, available at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc>.

M-1-2A-Ex-meridian Observation;
M-1-2B- Meridian Passage Observation;
M-1-2C-Identifying Unknown Stars;
M-1-2D-Selecting Stars or Planets;
M-1-2E-Plotting a LOP; and
M-1-2F-Plotting a Running Fix.

These required practical assessment control sheets may be completed in 2 ways:

- You may complete the 6 required assessment control sheets onboard ship and by having them signed off IAW USCG NMC Policy Letter 04-02. Or,
- Successful completion of STAR Center's Deck License Upgrade Celestial Navigation Course. This course involves completing the required practical assessments and an additional written exam as required by the USCG.

STAR Center recommends students have these assessment control sheets signed of onboard, whenever possible, as this will be the easiest option to meet the requirements. The USCG does not require that a course be completed in this area, only the practical assessments. To serve as a shipboard assessor for assessment of an applicant's practical demonstration of skill and sign the control sheets a mariner must;

- be serving on the vessel upon which the applicant is employed
- hold a STCW certification at the management level (master or chief mate)
- attest that they have read the USCG document on Conducting Mariner Assessments. This document is available at <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc>. A shipboard assessor who witnesses a practical assessment must sign the assessment standard (control sheet) and indicate that they have read and followed the guidance in the manual. A shipboard assessor who has read this document and uses the assessment standards (control sheet) in NMC Policy letter 04-02 will ensure a fair, standardized assessment of an applicant's ability to completely perform the assessed task.

If a member decides to take the STAR Center's Deck Upgrade Celestial Navigation class, a thorough review and understanding of the topics covered in Tab 4 (pages 225-325) of Pub. No 9, The American Practical Navigator (Bowditch 1995ed.) is a prerequisite. This 5 day USCG approved course is a fast paced intensive review with minimal instruction. In order for a student to receive credit for the practical demonstrations they must successfully complete all 6 control sheets and a written assessment required by the USCG. The control sheets can not be signed off separately at STAR Center from the course completion certificate.

If you have questions regarding this please contact Captain Jerry Pannell, Director of Member Training and Officer Development at 800-445-4522, ext 7507 or at jpannell@star-center.com.