

# Applications for Merchant Mariner Credential renewal should be submitted eight months prior to expiration; key considerations when filling out form CG-719B

By Christian Spain  
Vice President, Government Relations

AMO's Government Relations office in Washington, D.C. may be able to 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 first quarter of 2024, 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.

**Applications for MMC renewal should be submitted as you enter the eight-month window 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.**

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 as laid out in STCW 2010.

All Coast Guard Regional Exam Centers accept CG-719B applications via email. The National Maritime Center only accepts Medical Certificate applications (CG-719K) electronically via 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 MMC can be tracked and documented.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Currently, there is no automated response from the MEDAIP email address notifying you that your MEDICAL application has been received.

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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
<b>Section I: Applicant Information</b>						
1. Legal Name: Last	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix (Jr., Sr., III)	Alias(es) or Maiden Name(s) if applicable		
<div>2a. SSN (for Original only)</div> <div>2b. Reference Number (if applicable)</div> <div>2c. Alien Registration Number (ARN) (if applicable)</div> <div>3. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)</div>						
4. Citizenship	5a. Place of Birth (City)	5b. State	5c. Country	5d. Color of Eyes	5e. Color of Hair	
<b>Applicant Address and Contact Information (Please indicate best method(s) of contact by checking the appropriate box(es)).</b>						
6a. Home Address (PO Box NOT acceptable) <input type="checkbox"/>				6c. Primary Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/>		
Street Address				City		
State				Zip Code		
6b. Delivery/Mailing Address, if different (PO Box acceptable) <input type="checkbox"/>				6d. E-mail Address <input type="checkbox"/>		
Street Address				City		
State				Zip Code		
6e. Alternate Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/>				6f. Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Next of Kin/Emergency Contact (Please indicate best method(s) of contact by checking the appropriate box(es)). (Optional)</b>						
7a. Mailing Address, City, State, Zip Code				7b. Relationship (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/>		
Same address as above <input type="checkbox"/>				7c. Primary Phone Number (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name				7d. Alternate Phone Number (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/>		
Street Address				7e. E-mail Address (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/>		
City				State		
Zip Code						
<b>Section II: Requested Coast Guard Credential(s) or Endorsement Type(s) Requested:</b>						
Endorsement Category	Transaction Type (Check all that apply: See instructions for definitions and additional requirements for the transaction below)					
	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)						
<p><b>PLEASE SEE NOTE (1) BELOW</b></p> <p><b>PLEASE SEE NOTE (2) BELOW REGARDING FILLING OUT THIS BOX</b></p> <p><b>PLEASE SEE NOTE (3) BELOW REGARDING USE OF THIS CHECK BOX</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.</p>						
CG-719B (04/17)				Reset		
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<b>NOTES TO CG-719B PAGE 3:</b>						
<p><b>NOTE (1):</b> 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.</p> <p><b>NOTE (2):</b> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOMESTIC: Master, Unlimited Upon Oceans; Mate (Pilot) of Towing; Tankerman PIC (DL); Lifeboatman, etc.</li> <li>• INTERNATIONAL (STCW): OICNW, RFPNW, AB-Deck, Survival Craft, Fast Rescue Boat, Medical PIC, Advanced Chemical Tanker Cargo Operations, VPDSO, GMDSS Operator, Basic Training, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE (3):</b> 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.</p>						



# Application deadline is June 3 for upcoming 2024 TECH Program class at STAR Center

The Engineering Candidate Hawsepipeline (TECH) Program is a comprehensive training program for those who want to pursue a career as a seagoing marine engineering officer onboard vessels operated under contract with American Maritime Officers.

The deadline for applications for the next TECH Program class is noon on June 3. The class will commence in September 2024. Interested personnel should complete the application process and submit it on the STAR Center website.

[www.star-center.com/techprogram/techprogram.html](http://www.star-center.com/techprogram/techprogram.html)

In conjunction with STAR Center, AMO — the largest union of U.S. Merchant Marine officers — is offering this program with the purpose of providing selected candidates with the opportunity to proceed on a marine engineering career path and help fill the projected shortage of marine engineers. The program targets those with an interest in the Merchant Marine and mentors them during intense training onboard ship and ashore.

The TECH Program is in its tenth year, having paused briefly during the pandemic. There are currently 20 apprentice engineers in the program, which so far has produced 50 third assistant unlimited/OICEW engineers — all of whom sail with AMO.

The TECH program will take approximately two years to complete and alternates between classroom training and sea phases. Upon successful completion of the program, the individual commences career employment as a marine engineer with AMO.

The TECH program is sponsored by the AMO Plans and is also approved for veterans' benefits. Please use the link at left for full information on the program.

## MONTHLY AMO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Regular monthly membership meetings for American Maritime Officers will be held on the first Wednesday of every month except in the months of January, June, July and September, when the membership meeting will be held on the second Wednesday. Meetings will be held at AMO National Headquarters and will begin at 1 p.m. local time. The next meetings are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

**May 1, June 12, July 10**

## MMC Renewal

Continued from Page 6

You will only be notified when it is under review. As this can take some time, it is advised that you follow the guidelines above and **SUBMIT EARLY**.

The Coast Guard's guidance on submitting MMC applications (CG-719B) to RECs only, and for submitting Medical Certificate applications (CG-719K) directly to MMC, is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/54u6kc9f>.

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.

Please ensure you plan ahead. The Basic Training and Advanced Firefighting Revalidation courses required for STCW renewal can be taken any time during the five years prior to your MMC renewal. The STAR Center course schedule for AMO members is available on pages 8-10 of this edition.

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.

### NOTE TO CG-719B PAGE 4:

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

**PLEASE SEE NOTE AT LEFT 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?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| c) Have you ever been convicted by any court-including military court - for an offense other than a minor traffic violation?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| e) Have you ever had your driver's license revoked or suspended for refusing to submit to an alcohol or drug test?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| f) Have you had a drug test with a result other than negative within the last 10-years?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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 seafair 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 seafair 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:

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Reset Printed Name of Applicant:

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