



16721

JUL 23 2014

Ref: USNAVY-778

Mr. Michael Talley
U.S. Navy Center for Information Dominance
Attn: N73 Credentials Programs Office, Corry Station
640 Roberts Ave
Pensacola, FL 32511-5138

Dear Mr. Talley:

We write in response to your letter of December 11, 2013, requesting that we accept completion of the satisfy training and examination requirements for the following merchant mariner endorsements.

- Able Seaman
- Able Seafarer – Deck
- Fast Rescue Boat
- Lifeboatman (Proficiency in Survival Craft)
- Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch

We have reviewed the submitted materials and determined the following:

Active duty personnel and veterans showing successful completion of the U.S. Navy Boatswains Mate "A" program meet the guidelines of NVIC 04-14, "Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements for Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats Other Than Fast Rescue Boats." Applicants need not submit completed assessment forms or take the Lifeboatman Limited examination when applying for the Lifeboatman Limited (Vessels not equipped with lifeboats) endorsement.

In addition, for any Able Seaman endorsement we will accept completion of the U. S. Navy Boatswains Mate "A" program as meeting the knot tying, splices, bends, and hitches competency requirement of 46 CFR 12.405(c).

This determination is effective March 1, 2014, and expires on March 31, 2016. A request for renewal should be submitted at least 90 days prior to the expiration date. For reference purposes, we are designating the program as, 'U.S. Navy Boatswains Mate "A" Program (USNAVY-778).' Please refer to this designation in any correspondence, including a renewal of approval request, regarding this program.

We are unable to accept the program for the following endorsements as discussed below.

Able Seaman

You have not shown that all the Able Seaman requirements of 46 CFR Subpart 12.405 are met by the U. S. Navy Boatswains Mate "A" program (hereafter "program"). 46 CFR 12.405(d) requires that the applicant demonstrate knowledge of pollution laws and regulations, procedures for discharge containment and cleanup, and methods for disposal of sludge and waste material from cargo and fueling operations. For Able Seaman, the "Guide for Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations (Deck & Engineering Guide)" has two written examination modules; one of which has Deck and Navigation General, Safety and Environmental Protection questions. This exam module includes questions on merchant vessel cargo gear, and questions on the shipboard control of garbage as described in 33 CFR Part 151. The second module has questions on emergency medical care for CPR, burns, lacerations, fractures, shock, and treatment for cold and heat exposure. It also has questions on oil pollution control and prevention as described in 33 CFR parts 153 and 155. You have not shown that the program and the examinations within cover these topics.

Able Seafarer – Deck

You have not shown that the program meets the NVIC 14-14 "Guidelines for STCW Endorsements as Able Seafarer –Deck." (This NVIC is available on the NMC website.) Briefly, the Able Seafarer – Deck endorsement requires that the applicant holds, or has qualified for, a domestic Able Seaman endorsement and the STCW Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch endorsement. (See discussion of Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch below.)

Fast Rescue Boat

You have not shown that the program meets the Qualification Requirements of Enclosure (1) of NVIC 05-14, "Guidelines for STCW Endorsements for Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats." Briefly, the applicant must hold or have qualified for a Proficiency in Survival Craft endorsement. The program meets this requirement. However, the applicant must also meet the requirements of Table A-VI/2-2 of the STCW Code, as amended. This includes a practical demonstration of righting a capsized fast rescue boat and demonstrating the ability to carry out search patterns while taking into account environmental factors. You have not shown that the program performs these training exercises.

Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch

NVIC 06-14, "Guidelines for Qualification for STCW Endorsements as Rating Forming Part of a Navigational Watch," sets the guidelines for this endorsement. In addition to sea service, the competencies of Table A-II/4 of the STCW Code must be met. You have not shown that the program covers basic environmental protection procedures and the use of satellite EPRIBS and SARTS. This training is to include avoidance of false distress alerts and action to be taken in the event of accidental activation. It may be that the discrepancies noted on these pages can be resolved by the course provider indicating where in the program the missing subject material is taught. Alternatively, the applicant may be able to show fulfillment of a missing requirement by having completed another training program or course, such as First Aid and CPR.

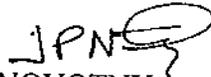
Revising this program to meet merchant marine as well as U.S Navy requirements is an option that would benefit future veterans. However, a revised program would not help those who have already taken this program. A supplemental program could be developed by a course provider to specifically address the missing elements of the existing program.

SUBJ: REPLY TO MR. TALLEY'S LETTER OF DECEMBER 11, 2013

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If you have questions contact Course Approvals at NMCCourses@uscg.mil or (304) 433-3720.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.P. NOVOTNY". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the end of the last name.

J. P. NOVOTNY
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL



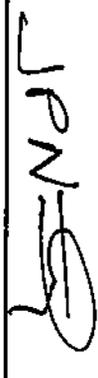
U.S. NAVY BOATSWAINS MATE A PROGRAM (USNAVY-778)

course offered by
U.S. Navy

Is hereby recognized as an approved training course as outlined in Subpart D of Part 10, Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations. This approval is valid through the expiration date below, unless sooner surrendered or withdrawn as set forth in 46 CFR 10.402, or by the requirements within the course approval.

March 1, 2014
Effective

March 31, 2016
Expires


J. P. NOVOTNY
Commanding Officer, National Maritime Center