



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville

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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 07-09

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NEW MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL REPLACES LICENCES AND MERCHANT MARINER DOCUMENTS

On April 15, 2009, a new U.S. Coast Guard regulation took effect that consolidates all previously issued merchant mariner qualification documents into a new Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC). The new MMC reduces the number of credentials a mariner must carry. It takes the place of all licenses, Merchant Mariner Documents (MMDs), Certificates of Registry and STCW endorsements previously issued as separate credentials. Existing credentials will remain valid until their expiration date, and current license and MMD holders will receive their new MMC at their next scheduled license or MMD transaction.

Additionally, mariners are no longer required to appear in person at a Coast Guard Regional Examination Center to apply for a new credential because the Transportation Safety Administration will send the information a mariner provided with their Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) application to the Coast Guard's National Maritime Center. Please note that as a result of the new process, Sector Jacksonville and Marine Safety Detachment Port Canaveral will no longer provide services to submit fingerprints, photos, or provide proof of citizenship for identification verification.

As a reminder, April 15, 2009, was the implementation date for all licensed and documented U.S. merchant mariners to hold a valid TWIC. After this date, failure to hold a valid TWIC will result in the denial of an MMC application for an original, renewal, new endorsement, duplicate, or raise of grade of a mariner's credential.

Regularly updated information to the TWIC program can be found on TSA's website at www.tsa.gov/twic as well as the U.S. Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil>. For any questions concerning this notice, please contact my Chief, Investigations Branch, LT Michael Moss at (904) 564-7656 or Michael.A.Moss@uscg.mil.

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Captain of the Port Jacksonville, FL