

MEMORANDUM

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**Department of Transportation and Public Facilities**  
**Alaska Marine Highway System**

**Date:** August 27, 2010

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**Subject:** Lifeboat Class ~ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

**For Instructional Purposes Only**

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**Question:** What is the difference between Lifeboatman and Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC)?

**Answer:** *Lifeboatman is the Domestic rating and PSC is the International rating. There is one class for both ratings. (See the following explanations.)*

**Proficiency in Survival Craft /Lifeboatman key points**

- 1) Both Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC) and Lifeboatman will be endorsed on your US Coast Guard document(s) (*see application form CG-719B*). The STCW Endorsement Certificate has been rolled into the Merchant Mariner's Credential (MMC). The MMC has an International Code (STCW) and Domestic U.S. Code (Title 46 Shipping).
  - a. Proficiency in Survival Craft (PSC) VI/2 is the International rating (*see Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping STCW Code*)
  - b. Lifeboatman is the Domestic rating (*see 46 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) (Shipping) Subpart 12.10*)
- 2) To get the PSC and Lifeboatman Endorsements, Mariners complete a US Coast Guard-approved Lifeboatman class plus show 180 days sea service.
  - a. Mariners should have close to or over 180 days sea time prior to attending an approved class.
  - b. If you don't have the required 180 days, you have one year from the end date of the class to obtain it. **Important:** *If you don't achieve the sea time within one year from the end date on the course Certificate of Completion, you will have to retake the class.*

- 3) Mariners must apply for the Lifeboatman Endorsement on their USCG Merchant Mariner's Credential (MMC) within one year of completing the class. If you do not apply for the endorsement(s) within that time frame, you will have to retake the class.
- a. **Note:** Apply for the STCW Endorsement, Proficiency in Survival Craft rating, at the same time that you apply for Lifeboatman rating. There is no additional cost for the PSC endorsement. When applying, check the STCW Certificate under Section II –Type of Transaction on the US Coast Guard form CG-719B.
  - b. **Important:** The STCW PSC rating is required for most IBU bids. Refer to IBU contractual language “...encouraged to obtain \*STCW-95 Certificate within 6 months of satisfying the US Coast Guard sea time requirements: required within 1 year of completing necessary sea time” \* The STCW-95 Certificate is now contained in the passport style booklet USCG Merchant Mariner's Credential (MMC)

**Question:** What does the above (3) (b) mean to me in terms of applying for a permanent bid position with AMHS?

**Answer:** If the Minimum Qualifications to bid for the shipboard position cites the IBU contractual language, and you have not achieved the necessary sea time, you may still apply for the position. However, if your bid application is granted, it may still be pulled at a later date if you do not obtain the endorsement per IBU contractual language.

**Question:** Where do I find a Lifeboat/PSC class? Who registers me for the class? What is compensated/provided by AMHS?

**Answer:** Lifeboat/PSC Classes

- 1) Lifeboatman/PSC courses are offered by many maritime schools. The links to several training providers are posted on the AMHS Learning Portal under the heading “*Links to USCG Approved Maritime Training Providers*”. Click on a link to see the individual training providers' class schedules.
  - a. Another resource under the same heading is the USCG NMC site. Select “*USCG Approved Courses Link*” to find a class by state or course name.

#### **Lifeboatman/PSC Classes in Alaska**

- a. AVTEC in Seward conducts the classes approximately six times per year. Go to the AVTEC link <http://www.avtec.edu/AMTC.htm> for more information.
- b. The University of Alaska (UAS) SE in Ketchikan generally conducts two classes in the Fall and Winter. Go to the *UAS Marine Transportation* link [http://www.uas.alaska.edu/career\\_ed/maritime/index.html](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/career_ed/maritime/index.html) for more information.

Note you can contact the UAS KTN Registrar, to reserve a seat in the class (even if date is not finalized) or (907) 225-4511 or (888) 550-6177 (toll-free)

- 2) You are responsible for registering with the training provider/school to enroll in the class.
  - a. *(Be sure to send in a copy of the Certificate of Completion to the AMHS Training Department at the Ketchikan Central Office (KCO) to update your Dispatch/Training files. Copies of copies of documents may also be submitted via e-mail [dot.amhs.crew.docs@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.amhs.crew.docs@alaska.gov) , faxed to (907)225-9398, or via vessel interdepartmental mail.)*
- 3) AMHS does not typically provide Lifeboat classes. Tuition, wages, receipted travel and lodging & meal per diem is not authorized unless otherwise advertised by AMHS. *Information (flyers) will be distributed and posted on the AMHS Learning Portal.*
  - a. AMHS may authorize Trip Passes to PSC classes
  - b. AMHS may provide a Hotel Ship for lodging if one is available *(flyers will be distributed and posted on the AMHS Learning Portal)*

**Question: What does the Lifeboat/PSC class entail?**

**Answer:** The classes may differ depending on USCG approval of the training provider's course. *All STCW classes are subject to USCG approval in three areas: 1) course curriculum & certificates, 2) instructors, and 3) classroom site.* Most courses include classroom instruction, hands on training, and a final exam. Good raingear and boots, hats & gloves are recommended/required see individual class requirements.

**Resources:**

- 1) USCG National Maritime Center web site: "STCW Policies and Information" including 46 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Subpart 12.10 and the International Maritime Organization re: International Convention Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers  
[http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/stew\\_policies.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/stew_policies.asp)
- 2) See also NMC Policy Ltr. No 08-01 posted on the USCG NMC web site in the Policy & Guidance Center section. Select "Regulations & Codes"  
[http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/policy\\_guidance\\_date.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/policy_guidance_date.asp)
- 3) Merchant Mariner's Application (Form CG-719B)  
[http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/credentials\\_forms.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/credentials_forms.asp)