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United States Coast Guard

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# MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL (MMC) APPLICATIONS FOR THE RATING OF STEWARD'S DEPARTMENT (F.H.)

Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 10.215(d)(2), requires that mariners applying for a Steward's Department Food Handler rating provide a statement from a licensed physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner attesting that they are free of communicable diseases. In order to minimize the need for additional information, this bulletin clarifies the application process for steward's department ratings as follows:

- Applications received that specifically request *'Steward's Department (F.H.)'* will be required to have a statement attesting that the applicant is free of communicable diseases in accordance with 46 CFR 10.215(d)(2).

- Applications received for Steward's Department (F.H.) that do not have this statement will be considered incomplete and will be held at the cognizant Regional Examination Center for a period not to exceed 60 days to afford the mariner applicant time to acquire the required statement. After 60 days, if no statement is received, the application package, in its entirety, will be returned to the applicant.

- Applications received for any/all entry level ratings that contain the statement required by 46 CFR 10.215(d)(2) will be processed as a request for Steward's Department (F.H.).

- Applications that do not specifically request food handler, and do not have the statement required by 46 CFR 10.215(d)(2), will be processed and an appropriate credential will be issued without the food handler endorsement (e.g. Ordinary Seaman, Wiper, Steward's Department).

If you are applying for entry level ratings and wish to have food handler included on your MMC, be sure to apply for *'Ordinary Seamen, Wiper, Steward's Department (F.H.)'* **AND** be sure to include the statement from your physician attesting that you are free of communicable diseases. This statement can be written on the CG Form 719K, CG Form 719K/E or provided separately. The Coast Guard is considering adding the statement to the next revision of both forms.

Questions regarding this effort should be directed to our Mariner Information Call Center at 1-888-IASKNMC or IASKNMC@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,

A. S. Lloyd
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard