

Information Concerning Employment and Training in the U.S. Merchant Marine May 2009

INTRODUCTION

Many fascinating careers are available in the maritime industry which offers:

- Extensive travel to interesting ports of call
- Responsibility
- Excellent pay and good benefits

Maritime careers typically belong to one of these shipboard departments:

- **Deck** — navigation, cargo handling, and management
- **Engineering** — propulsion, maintenance, and management
- **Steward/hotel** — food services, sanitation, and accommodations

Some vessels will also have a “Supply Department” which is typically a combination of the steward’s department and those crewmembers who perform storekeeping duties.

Additionally some vessels carry communications and/or medical personnel.

Almost anyone can find a job in the maritime industry by:

- Contacting a **maritime company** or **union**
- Contacting a **maritime crewing agency**
- Attending a **maritime technical training school**
- Attending a **maritime academy** or a **maritime college** to become a licensed officer

The U.S. merchant marine consists of privately owned, U.S.-registered merchant ships, and a variety of towing, offshore supply and passenger vessels, which provide waterborne transportation for passengers and cargoes moving in domestic and international commerce.

Employment on these vessels is the responsibility of the ship owners and is handled by maritime labor organizations or through direct employment by the operating company.

Part-time or summer employment is available in some sectors of the maritime industry such as the passenger vessel industry.

The level of seafaring employment available is determined by the state of the U.S. economy, world business conditions, and improvements in ship technology.

This pamphlet provides information on shipboard employment and related maritime education and training programs.

Primary shipboard employment categories include deep sea, Great Lakes, towing and barges, inland and coastal waters, passenger vessels, and offshore and mineral operations. Other areas of employment in the maritime industry include shipbuilding and repair, longshoring (cargo handling), port terminal administration, and intermodal logistics. For information on employment in these areas, visit the Maritime Administration’s web site at www.marad.dot.gov.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

The Maritime Administration does not directly hire merchant mariners but serves as a resource, providing information regarding many career opportunities available to those interested in becoming merchant mariners. The Maritime Administration office that coordinates information on seafaring employment and training is the Office of Maritime Workforce Development. Contact the office by telephone at (202) 493-0029; or by e-mail at careersafloat@dot.gov or by mail at:

Maritime Administration (MAR 740)
Office of Maritime Workforce Development
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL

The Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) is a tamper-resistant, biometric credential for workers that require unescorted access to secure areas of ports, vessels, or outer continental shelf facilities. Workers such as U.S. Coast Guard credentialed merchant mariners, port facility employees, longshoremen, and truck drivers. Since April 15, 2009, all mariners have been required by law to hold a TWIC in order to obtain or maintain U.S. Coast Guard credentials.

Individuals that need the TWIC must enroll in the program in person at a TSA enrollment center. A list of enrollment center locations is available by calling the TWIC Call Center at 1-866-DHS-TWIC (1-866-347-8942), or by visiting the TSA web site online at twicinformation.tsa.dhs.gov/twicinfo

Note: For the latest updates, contact the TWIC Call Center or logon to the TWIC web site listed above.

UNIT ED STATES COAST GUARD

The U. S. Coast Guard is a part of the Department of Homeland Security and is the regulatory agency responsible for credentialing U.S. merchant mariners. All mariners working aboard vessels larger than 100 gross registered tons must possess both a TWIC and a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC). The MMC is explained on page 3 of the on-line version of this pamphlet.

Credentialing of mariners is coordinated through the Coast Guard's regional examination centers (REC). Those interested in employment afloat should contact the nearest REC for an explanation of regulations and application submission assistance. The National Maritime Center Help Desk can also be contacted about credentialing questions or concerns toll-free at 1-888-I ASK NMC or 1-888-427-5662.

USCG REGIONAL EXAMINATION CENTERS

ALASKA, Anchorage

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
800 E. Diamond Blvd., Suite 3-227
Anchorage AK 99515
telephone: (907) 271-6736

ALASKA, Juneau

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
2760 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A
Juneau AK 99801-8545
telephone: (907) 463-2458

CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles/Long Beach

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
501 W. Ocean Blvd, Suite 6200
Long Beach CA 90802
telephone: (562) 495-1480

CALIFORNIA, Oakland

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
Oakland Federal Bldg., North Tower
1301 Clay Street, Room 180N
Oakland CA 94612-5200
telephone: (510) 637-1124

FLORIDA, Miami

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
Claude Pepper Federal Building
51 S.W. 1st Ave., 6th Floor
Miami FL 33130-1608
telephone: (305) 536-6548 or 536-6874

HAWAII, Honolulu

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
433 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu HI 96813-4909
telephone: (808) 522-8264

LOUISIANA, Mandeville

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
4250 Hwy 22, Suite F
Mandeville LA 70471
telephone: (985) 624-5700

MARYLAND, Baltimore

U.S. Coast Guard (REC)
U.S. Customs House
40 South Gay Street
Baltimore MD 21202-4022
telephone: (410) 962-5132

MASSACHUSETTS, Boston

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
455 Commercial Street
Boston MA 02109-1045
telephone: (617) 223-3040

MISSOURI, St. Louis

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
1222 Spruce Street, Room 7105
St. Louis MO 63103-2846
telephone: (314) 269-2504

NEW YORK, New York

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
Battery Park Building
1 South Street
New York NY 10004-1466
telephone: (212) 668-7492

OHIO, Toledo

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
420 Madison Ave., Suite 700
Toledo OH 43604
telephone: (419) 418-6010

OREGON, Portland

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
911 NE 11th Avenue, Room 637
Portland OR 97232-4169
telephone: (503) 231-2296

SOUTH CAROLINA, Charleston

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
196 Tradd Street
Charleston SC 29401-1899
telephone: (843) 720-3250

TENNESSEE, Memphis

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
200 Jefferson Ave., Suite 1302
Memphis TN 38103
telephone: (901) 544-3297

TEXAS, Houston

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
8876 Gulf Freeway, Suite 200
Houston TX 77017-6595
telephone: (713) 948-3350

WASHINGTON, Seattle

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
915 Second Ave., Room 194
Seattle WA 98174-1067
telephone: (206) 220-7327

This list is also available at: www.uscg.mil/nmc

CREDENTIALS**Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC)**

The U.S. Coast Guard has consolidated four credentials that were previously issued separately to merchant mariners:

- (1) Licenses
- (2) Certificate of Registry
- (3) Merchant Mariner Document
- (4) STCW Certification

All merchant mariner credentials issued after April 15, 2009, are being printed in the new, consolidated Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) format.

Applying for an original MMC

- No evidence of service is required to obtain a MMC with an entry level rating endorsement. Individuals seeking a qualified rating endorsement must show evidence of service, and in some cases evidence of approved training. Mariners in qualified ratings who wish to sail internationally will also need basic safety training to obtain an International or Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) endorsement.

The specific requirements for an original MMC are:

- Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. An applicant between 16 and 18 years of age must present a notarized statement of parental or guardian's consent.
- An applicant must submit evidence of either possessing a valid Transportation Worker Identification Credential (such as a photocopy of the TWIC), or that the application for a TWIC has been completed.
- An applicant must provide a Chemical Testing Report dated within six months of their application.
- An applicant must have had a physical examination within 12 months of their application and provide a signed Physical Examination Report utilizing the appropriate USCG form
- Applicants who indicate the use of drugs or conviction of drug-related offenses, other criminal convictions or National Driver Register (NDR) motor vehicle convictions **may not** be eligible for an MMC.
- Application forms and all other necessary forms can be obtained from any U.S. Coast Guard Regional Examination Center (REC). The forms are also available for download online at the USCG's National Maritime Center web site: www.uscg.mil/nmc.

- The MMC package should be submitted to any Regional Examination Center. Sending the package to the National Maritime Center will cause delays. To find the correct mailing address of any REC, visit the web site listed above or refer to the list of RECs printed earlier in this pamphlet.
- Mariners do not need to visit a REC in person and may complete all transactions by mail.
- Once the MMC is issued to the applicant, the document will look and feel like a U.S. passport; however, the MMC is NOT a passport and, therefore, cannot be used as a substitute for a passport.
- Mariners who sail on vessels outside of U.S. waters must obtain their own passport from the U.S. Department of State. For information on obtaining a U.S. passport, visit the State Department's web site at: www.travel.state.gov/passport
- Photographs to be used in the MMC will be electronically forwarded from the Transportation Security Administration.
- The Coast Guard is required *by law* to collect a user fee for the evaluation and documentation process. Current fees are explained online at www.uscg.mil/nmc. After submission, the status of an MMC application can be tracked on the NMC web site at www.uscg.mil/nmc, or by calling 1-888-I-ASK-NMC (1-888-427-5662).

ALSO IMPORTANT:

For a list of items to submit with an MMC application, download a copy of the MMC application acceptance checklist at: www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements.asp

MARITIME EMPLOYMENT

Deep Sea

Employment aboard ocean and coastal U.S.-flag ships is usually handled by either the maritime labor unions or ship operators. Information on high seas shipboard employment is available through several maritime industry contacts including:

MARITIME LABOR UNIONS

Seafarers International Union

P.O. Box 75
 Piney Point MD 20674
 telephone: (877) 235-3275
www.seafarers.org

Sailors Union of the Pacific

450 Harrison Street
 San Francisco CA 94105
 telephone: (415) 777-3400
www.sailors.org

Marine Firemen's Union

240 Second Street
 San Francisco CA 94105
 telephone: (415) 362-4592
www.mfoww.org

American Maritime Officers

490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW, Suite 7204
 Washington DC 20024
 telephone: (202) 479-1166
www.amo-union.org

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

District No. 1-MEBA
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 800
Washington DC 20001
telephone: (202) 638-5355
www.d1meba.org

International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots

700 Maritime Blvd.
Linthicum Heights MD 21090
telephone: (410) 850-8700
www.bridgedeck.com

Maritime Labor-Management Affiliations Guide

The Maritime Administration publishes the Maritime Labor-Management Affiliations Guide that provides additional information on the major maritime management and trade organizations, the seafaring labor organizations, and many U.S.-flag ship operator companies. Copies are available online at www.marad.dot.gov or from:

Office of Sealift Support (MAR-630)
Maritime Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590
telephone: (202) 366-2646

U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command

The Navy's Military Sealift Command (MSC) operates numerous merchant-type ships staffed with civilian crews employed as civil servants. For further information, contact:

MSC, CIVMAR Support Center
6353 Center Drive
Building 8, Suite 202
Norfolk VA 23502
telephone: (877) 562-7672
www.sealiftcommand.com

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Opportunities operates high seas and inland oceanographic research and survey vessels. Most afloat personnel are civil servants. Detailed employment information is available online at www.commerce.gov/jobs .

Great Lakes - Towing and Barge -Coastal and Inland Waters

The American Waterways Operators

(AWO) is a national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat, and barge industry. AWO has over 400 member companies that operate throughout the United States on rivers, canals, ports and harbors, the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts. Detailed information on the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry and a list of AWO's member companies are available online at www.americanwaterways.com.

The Lake Carriers Association, Suite 915,

614 Superior Avenue, Cleveland OH 44113, represents 18 U.S.-flag companies operating 62 vessels on the Great Lakes and can furnish information regarding employment opportunities for mariners. Contact them by phone at (216) 861-0592, or via e-mail: info@lcaships.com , or visit their web site at www.lcaships.com.

Passenger Vessel Association focuses on the issues and concerns of owners and operators of passenger vessels, manufacturers of maritime-related products and services and other service companies dedicated to achieving a common goal and working to develop a superior business environment for all. The association's address is

901 N. Pitt Street-Suite 100
Alexandria VA 22314.

The toll-free number is (800) 807-8360, and the web site is www.passengervessel.com.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates floating equipment necessary to maintain and improve the nation's navigable waterways. These vessels are staffed by civil service employees, but employment opportunities are limited. Federal employment opportunities that do exist with the Corps are advertised on the Office of Personnel Management web site online at www.usajobs.opm.gov.

Offshore Oil and Mineral Offshore Marine Services Association, Inc. (OMSA) is an association of companies that operate oil and mineral vessels such as crew and supply boats, which support offshore oil and mineral rigs and platforms. OMSA's web site on the Internet contains listings of companies and employment contacts at www.offshoremarine.org.

Additional maritime job opportunities

These web sites also provide information on available job opportunities in the maritime industry:

- www.goships.com
- www.shiptalkjobs.com
- www.findmaritimejobs.com
- www.maritimejobs.com

MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Maritime-themed schools

Maritime programs are offered in various middle and high schools around the country. These programs provide rigorous academic programs with a focus on maritime studies, science, and technology. They also provide students the opportunity to enter maritime careers upon graduation or to pursue further advanced maritime education at a vocational school, community college, service academy or maritime academy. Contact the U.S. Department of Education or the Association for Career and Technical Education for information regarding maritime-themed schools.

A list of high schools or associations with maritime-oriented programs is available online at www.marad.dot.gov. Once there, click on the "Education" heading.

Maritime academies

There are seven maritime academies in the United States that educate and train individuals to become officers in the merchant marine. Graduates receive college degrees and U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Credentials with STCW endorsements as deck or engineering officers.

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point NY 11024
telephone: (516) 773- 5000

www.usmma.edu

California Maritime Academy

200 Maritime Academy Drive
Vallejo CA 94590
telephone: (707) 654-1000

www.csum.edu

Great Lakes Maritime Academy

Northwestern Michigan College
1701 East Front Street
Traverse City MI 49686
telephone: (800) 748-0566, extension 1200
www.nmc.edu/maritime

Maine Maritime Academy

Castine ME 04420-5000
telephone: (800) 464-6565 (in state)
(800) 227-8465 (out-of-state)
www.mainemaritime.edu

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

101 Academy Drive
Buzzards Bay MA 02532
telephone: (508) 830-5000
www.maritime.edu

State University of New York Maritime College

6 Pennyfield Avenue
Throggs Neck NY 10465
telephone: (718) 409-7220
www.sunymaritime.edu

Texas Maritime Academy

Texas A&M University at Galveston
Box 1675
Galveston TX 77553-1675
telephone: (877) 322-4443
www.tamug.edu/corps

Maritime industry-affiliated schools

The U.S. maritime industry operates high quality, state-of-the-art training facilities that provide a wide variety of courses for mariners entering the industry as well as those upgrading professional qualifications.

Calhoon MEBA Engineering School

27050 Saint Michaels Road
Easton MD 21601
telephone: (410) 822-9600
www.mebaschool.org

Andrew Furuseth School of Seamanship

450 Harrison Street
San Francisco CA 94405
telephone: (415) 777-3400
www.sailors.org

Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS)

692 Maritime Boulevard
Linthicum MD 21090
telephone: (866) 656-5568
www.mitags.org

Pacific Maritime Institute (PMI)

1729 Alaskan Way South
Seattle WA 98134
telephone: (888) 893-7829

www.mates.org

Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education

Box 75
Piney Point MD 20674-0075
telephone: (301) 994-0010
(877) 235-3275 toll-free

www.seafarers.org/phc

RTM STAR Center

2 West Dixie Highway
Dania Beach FL 33004
telephone: (954) 921-7254;
(800) 445-4522, toll free

www.star-center.com

Maritime Administration Marine Fire Fighting Training

The Maritime Administration operates the Great Lakes Fire Training Center. The center trains mariners to extinguish fires in a realistic setting on a ship-like structure. The training meets U.S. Coast Guard requirements for training and certification of seafarers. To find out more, contact:

Maritime Administration
Fire Training Center
2600 S. Eber Road
Swanton OH 43558
telephone: (419) 574-1965
e-mail: GLFireschool@dot.gov

Other schools with maritime training

Numerous schools exist around the country that provides maritime training for new and experienced mariners. In January 2009 there were more than 1,750 Coast Guard-approved courses offered by 245 training providers. A current listing of these courses and providers is available for online at the USCG web site: www.uscg.mil/nmc/mmic_appcourses.asp

Additional schools are listed on the “Careers Afloat” web site at www.marad.dot.gov. Click on the “Education” heading.