

STCW Gap-Closing Requirements

The regulatory changes that became effective on March 24, 2014, require additional training and/or assessments for certain Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) endorsements. These “gap-closing” requirements must be met by mariners who hold STCW endorsements issued under the previous regulatory requirements. Mariners who submit applications without evidence of meeting gap-closing may have their STCW endorsements limited to “Not valid after 31 Dec 2016”. STCW gap-closing requirements do not affect limitation or retention of national endorsements.

The National Maritime Center (NMC) will process complete applications submitted **ON** or **BEFORE** December 31, 2016, without gap-closing requirements for the STCW endorsement in the following manner:

Transaction Type	Where MMC Expires ON or BEFORE 31 DEC 2016	Where MMC Expires AFTER 31 DEC 2016
Renewal	Limited to not valid after 31Dec2016	Limited to not valid after 31Dec2016
Raise of Grade Modification of limitation/scope	Limited to not valid after 31Dec2016	Those STCW endorsements not already existing on MMC will be Limited to not valid after 31Dec2016.
New Endorsement	Limited to not valid after 31Dec2016	Those STCW endorsements not already existing on MMC will be Limited to not valid after 31Dec2016.
Duplicate	Limited to not valid after 31Dec2016	STCW endorsements will be issued with no new date limitation but with new endorsement wording.

The NMC will process complete applications submitted **AFTER** December 31, 2016, without gap-closing requirements for the STCW endorsement in the following manner:

Transaction Type	Where MMC Expires ON or BEFORE 31 DEC 2016	Where MMC Expires AFTER 31 DEC 2016
Renewal	Endorsement will not be issued.	Endorsement will not be issued.
Raise of Grade Modification of limitation/scope	Endorsement will not be issued.	Endorsement will not be issued. Existing STCW endorsements will be retained with no new date limitation.
New Endorsement	Endorsement will not be issued.	Endorsement will not be issued. Existing STCW endorsements will be retained with no new date limitation.
Duplicate	Endorsements requiring gap-closing will not be issued.	STCW endorsements will be issued with no new date limitation but with new endorsement wording.

The STCW endorsements with gap-closing requirements are listed below. Requirements for these endorsements are contained in [46 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Part 11, Subpart C](#). Leadership and Teamwork Skills can be satisfied through demonstration of competence either onboard ship or in approved training.

Management Level (Master, Chief Mate - II/2, II/3)

- Leadership and Managerial Skills
- ECDIS (To be valid on vessels equipped with ECDIS)

Management Level (Chief Engineer, Second Engineer Officer - III/2, III/3)

- Engine Resource Management (ERM) if not completed at the operational level
- Leadership and Managerial Skills
- Management of Electrical and Electronic Control Equipment

Operational Level (OICNW - II/1, II/3)

- Leadership and Teamwork Skills
- ECDIS (To be valid on vessels equipped with ECDIS)

Operational Level (OICEW - III/1)

- ERM
- Leadership and Teamwork Skills

Mariners who have STCW endorsements removed or date-limited because gap-closing requirements were not completed, may have those STCW endorsements restored or the date removed at any time by submitting a new application with evidence of meeting all gap-closing requirements.

If you have questions, please contact the NMC at 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662) or IASKNMC@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,

/J. P. Novotny/
Jeffrey P. Novotny
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer