

maintained in the Master Beneficiary Record, Supplemental Security Income Record, and the Master Files of Social Security Number Holders and SSN Applications.

#### *E. Inclusive Dates of the Match*

The matching program shall become effective no sooner than 40 days after notice for the program is sent to Congress and OMB, or 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, whichever date is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months from the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if certain conditions are met.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

[USCG 2000-7693]

#### **Guidelines for Assessing Merchant Mariners Through Demonstrations of Proficiency as Officers in Charge of Navigational Watches on Ships of 500 Gross Tonnage or More as Measured Under the International Tonnage Convention (ITC)**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard announces the availability of, and seeks public comments on, the national performance measures proposed here for use as guidelines when mariners demonstrate their proficiency as Officers in Charge of Navigational Watches on ships of 500 gross tonnage ITC or more. A working group of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) developed and recommended national performance measures for this proficiency. The Coast Guard has adapted the measures recommended by MERPAC.

**DATES:** Comments and related material must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before October 23, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Please identify your comments and related material by the docket number of this rulemaking [USCG 2000-7693]. Then, to make sure they enter the docket just once, submit them by just one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

(2) By delivery to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this Notice. Comments and related material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned in this Notice, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The measures proposed here are also available from Mr. Mark Gould or Mr. Gerald Miente, Maritime Personnel Qualifications Division, Office of Operating and Environmental Standards, Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, telephone 202-267-0229.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions on this Notice or on the national performance measures proposed here, write or call Mr. Gould or Mr. Miente where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Ms. Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **What Action is the Coast Guard Taking?**

Table A-II/1 of the Code accompanying the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended in 1995, articulates qualifications for ensuring merchant mariners' attaining the minimum standard of competence through demonstrations of their proficiency as Officers in Charge of Navigational Watches on ships of 500 gross tonnage ITC or more. The Coast Guard tasked MERPAC with referring to the Table, modifying and specifying it as it deemed necessary, and recommending national performance measures. The Coast Guard has adapted the measures recommended by MERPAC and is proposing them here for use as guidelines for assessing that

proficiency. Next we set forth the Five Skills by which a mariner must demonstrate that proficiency and we give an example of a Performance Condition, a Performance Behavior, and three Performance Standards for one of the skills.

**Five Skills:** Plan and conduct a passage and determine position; Maintain a safe navigational watch; Use radar and ARPA to maintain the safety of navigation; Transmit and receive information by visual signaling; and Maneuver the ship.

The Performance Condition for the skill entitled, "Plan and conduct a passage and determine position" is: On a ship or in a navigational laboratory, given notices to mariners and uncorrected charts and publications.

The Performance Behavior for the same skill is: The candidate will correct five charts and three publications, including the *Light List* or the *List of Lights*.

The Performance Standards for the same skill are: Charts and publications needing correction are identified; Corrections are correctly made to the affected charts and publications; and All corrections to charts are recorded on the chart, and in the chart-correction record or on the chart-correction spreadsheet, and all corrections to publications are recorded on the correction page of the publication and on either the publication-correction card or the publication-correction spreadsheet.

If the mariner properly meets all of the Performance Standards, he or she passes the practical demonstration. If he or she fails to properly carry out any of the Performance Standards, he or she fails it.

#### **Why Is the Coast Guard Taking This Action?**

The Coast Guard is taking this action to comply with STCW, as amended in 1995 and incorporated into domestic law at 46 CFR Parts 10, 12, and 15 in 1997. Guidance from the International Maritime Organization on shipboard assessments of proficiency suggests that Parties develop standards and measures of performance for practical tests as part of their programs for training and assessing seafarers.

#### **How May I Participate in This Action?**

You may participate in this action by submitting comments and related material on the national performance measures proposed here. (Although the Coast Guard does not seek public comment on the measures recommended by MERPAC, as distinct from the measures proposed here, those measures are available on the Internet at

the Homepage of MERPAC, <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/advisory/merpac/merpac.htm>.) These measures are available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. They are also available from Mr. Gould or Mr. Miente where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. If you submit written comments please include—

- Your name and address;
- The docket number for this Notice [USCG 2000-7693];
- The specific section of the performance measures to which each comment applies; and
- The reason for each comment.

You may mail, deliver, fax, or electronically submit your comments and related material to the Docket Management Facility, using an address or fax number listed in **ADDRESSES**. Please do not submit the same comment or material more than once. If you mail or deliver your comments and material, they must be on 8½-by-11-inch paper, and the quality of the copy should be clear enough for copying and scanning. If you mail your comments and material and would like to know whether the Docket Management Facility received them, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. The Coast Guard will consider all comments and material received during the 60-day comment period.

Once we have considered all comments and related material, we will publish a final version of the national performance measures for use as guidelines by the general public. Individuals and institutions assessing the competence of mariners may refine the final version of these measures and develop innovative alternatives. If you vary from the final version of these measures, however, you must submit your alternative to the National Maritime Center for approval by the Coast Guard under 46 CFR 10.303(e) before you use it as part of an approved course or training program.

Dated: July 27, 2000.

**Joseph J. Angelo,**

*Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-15-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### **Proposed Advisory Circular (AC) No. 21.101-XX, Advisory Material for the Establishment of the Certification Basis of Changed Aeronautical Products**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of and request for comments on a proposed advisory circular (AC) that provides guidance for establishing the certification basis for changed aeronautical products, including identifying the conditions under which it will be necessary to apply for a new type certificate. The FAA has issued a final rule, Type Certification Procedures for Changed Products that amends the procedural regulations for the certification of changes to type certification products. These amendments affect changes accomplished through either an amended type certificate or a supplemental type certificate. This proposed AC provides guidance for determining compliance with those amended procedural regulations for the certification of changes to transport category airplanes and restricted category airplanes that have been certified using transport category regulations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before November 20, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments on the proposed AC to: Certification Procedures Branch, AIR-110, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone number: (202) 267-3777.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Madeleine Miguel, Certification Procedures Branch, AIR-110, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone number: (202) 267-3777, fax (202) 267-5340.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Comments Invited**

A copy of the draft AC may be obtained by accessing the FAA's webpage at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/arm/nprm/nprm.htm>. Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed AC, and to submit such written data,

views, or arguments as they desire. Commenters must identify AC 21-101-XX, Advisory Material for the Establishment of the Certification Basis of Changed Aeronautical Products, and submit comments to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered by the FAA before issuing the final AC.

#### **Background**

##### *Final Rule*

The FAA amended and published in the **Federal Register** on June 7, 2000 (65 FR 36244) new procedural regulations, titled "Type Certification Procedures for Changed Products" for the certification of changes to type certification products. This final rule was in response to a trend in the aviation industry towards fewer aviation type certification products that are of completely new design and more products with multiple changes to previously approved designs. The final rule set mandatory compliance dates of December 10, 2001, for transport category airplanes and restricted category airplanes that have been certified using transport category standards, and December 9, 2002, for all other category aircraft and engines and propellers.

The amended procedural regulations require that the starting point for determining the certification basis for an amended or supplemental type certificate be the regulations in effect at the date of the application for the change, rather than those regulations incorporated by reference in the type certificate. Exceptions are provided to permit the applicant, under certain conditions, to comply with previous amendments to those regulations.

##### *Advisory Circular (AC)*

This AC provides guidance for the applicant to comply with the amended regulations for the certification of changes to transport category airplanes and restricted category airplanes that have been certified using transport category regulations. Further guidance material related to other aeronautical products will be introduced and published as changes to the AC before the mandatory compliance dates for the amended procedural regulations become effective for those products.

On May 2, 1997, the FAA published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 24152) a notice of availability and request for comments for a previous version of this proposed AC. The FAA determined that a new proposed AC is warranted due to the introduction of substantial changes,