

§ 15.610 Master and mate (pilot) of towing vessels.

(a) Except as provided in this paragraph, every towing vessel of at least 8 meters (at least 26 feet) in length, measured from end to end over the deck (excluding sheer), must be under the direction and control of a person licensed as master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels or as master or mate of vessels of greater than 200 gross register tons holding either an endorsement on his or her license for towing vessels or a completed Towing Officer's Assessment Record (TOAR) signed by a designated examiner indicating that the officer is proficient in the operation of towing vessels. This does not apply to any vessel engaged in assistance towing, or to any towing vessel of less than 200 gross register tons engaged in exploiting offshore minerals or oil if the vessel has sites or equipment so engaged as its place of departure or ultimate destination.

(b) An officer may continue to operate towing vessels within any restrictions of his or her license from May 21, 2001, until the first renewal or upgrade of that license, but not later than May 21, 2006. Every towing vessel covered by paragraph (a) of this section must carry at least the following personnel:

(1) An officer designated Master and holding a license as—

- (i) Master of towing vessels;
- (ii) Master of towing vessels (Limited) when operating solely within a limited local area;
- (iii) Operator of uninspected towing vessels;
- (iv) Master of inspected, self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license; or
- (v) Mate or first-class pilot of inspected, self-propelled vessels with a license for service in vessels of greater than 200 gross register tons (Domestic service only).

(2) Another officer, if the vessel is operating more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period, holding a license—

- (i) Listed in 46 CFR 15.610(b)(1);
- (ii) As mate (pilot) of towing vessels;
- (iii) As second-class OUTV; or
- (iv) As mate of inspected, self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license.

(c) Any towing vessel operating in the pilotage waters of the Lower Mississippi River must be under the control of an officer who holds a first-class pilot's license or endorsement for that route, or meets the requirements of either paragraph (c)(1) or paragraph (c)(2) of this section as applicable:

(1) To operate a towing vessel with tank barges, or a tow of barges carrying hazardous materials regulated under part N or O of this subchapter, an officer in charge of the towing vessel must have completed 12 round trips over this route as an observer, with at least 3 of those trips during hours of darkness, and at least 1 round trip of the 12 within the last 5 years.

(2) To operate a towing vessel without barges, or a tow of uninspected barges, an officer in charge of the towing vessel must have completed at least four round trips over this route as an observer, with at least one of those trips during hours of darkness, and at least one round trip of the 12 within the last 5 years.

[USCG–1999–6224, 66 FR 20944, Apr. 26, 2001, as amended at 68 FR 35818, June 17, 2003; USCG–2008–0906, 73 FR 56508, Sept. 29, 2008]

Subpart F—Limitations and Qualifying Factors

§ 15.701 Officers Competency Certificates Convention, 1936.

(a) This section implements the Officers Competency Certificates Convention, 1936, and applies to each vessel documented under the laws of the United States navigating seaward of the Boundary Lines in part 7 of this chapter, except:

- (1) A public vessel;
- (2) A wooden vessel of primitive build, such as a dhow or junk;
- (3) A barge; and,
- (4) A vessel of less than 200 gross tons.

(b) The master, mates and engineers on any vessel to which this section applies must hold a license to serve in that capacity issued by the Coast Guard under part 10 of this chapter.

(c) A vessel to which this section applies, or a foreign flag vessel to which the Convention applies, may be detained by a designated official until that official is satisfied that the vessel

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is in compliance with the Convention. *Designated official* includes Coast Guard officers, Coast Guard petty officers and officers or employees of the Customs Service.

(d) Whenever a vessel is detained, the owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or individual in charge may appeal the detention within five days under the provisions of § 2.01-70 of this chapter.

§ 15.705 Watches.

(a) Title 46 U.S.C. 8104 is the law applicable to the establishment of watches aboard certain U.S. vessels. The establishment of adequate watches is the responsibility of the vessel's master. The Coast Guard interprets the term *watch* to be the direct performance of vessel operations, whether deck or engine, where such operations would routinely be controlled and performed in a scheduled and fixed rotation. The performance of maintenance or work necessary to the vessel's safe operation on a daily basis does not in itself constitute the establishment of a watch. The minimum safe manning levels specified in a vessel's certificate of inspection take into consideration routine maintenance requirements and ability of the crew to perform all operational evolutions, including emergencies, as well as those functions which may be assigned to persons in watches.

(b) Subject to exceptions, 46 U.S.C. 8104 requires that when a master of a seagoing vessel of more than 100 gross tons establishes watches for the licensed individuals, sailors, coal passers, firemen, oilers and watertenders, the personnel shall be *divided, when at sea, into at least three watches and shall be kept on duty successively to perform ordinary work incident to the operation and management of the vessel*. The Coast Guard interprets *sailors* to mean those members of the deck department other than licensed officers, whose duties involve the mechanics of conducting the ship on its voyage, such as helmsman (wheelsman), lookout, etc., and which are necessary to the maintenance of a continuous watch. *Sailors* is not interpreted to include able seamen and ordinary seamen not performing these duties.

(c) Subject to exceptions, 46 U.S.C. 8104(g) permits the licensed individuals and crew members (except the coal passers, firemen, oilers, and watertenders) to be divided into two watches when at sea and engaged on a voyage of less than 600 miles on the following categories of vessels:

- (1) Towing vessel;
- (2) Offshore supply vessel; or,
- (3) Barge.

(d) Subject to exceptions, 46 U.S.C. 8104(h) permits a licensed master or mate (pilot) operating a towing vessel that is at least 26 feet in length measured from end to end over the deck (excluding sheer) to work not more than 12 hours in a consecutive 24 hour period except in an emergency. The Coast Guard interprets this, in conjunction with other provisions of the law, to permit licensed masters or mates (pilots) serving as operators of towing vessels that are not subject to the provisions of the Officers' Competency Certificates Convention, 1936, to be divided into two watches regardless of the length of the voyage.

(e) Fish processing vessels are subject to various provisions of 46 U.S.C. 8104 concerning watches.

(1) For fish processing vessels that entered into service before January 1, 1988, the following watch requirements apply to the licensed officers and deck crew:

(i) If over 5000 gross tons—three watches.

(ii) If more than 1600 gross tons and not more than 5000 gross tons—two watches.

(iii) If not more than 1600 gross tons—no watch division specified.

(2) For fish Processing vessels which enter into service after December 31, 1987, the following watch requirements apply to the licensed officers and deck crew:

(i) If over 5000 gross tons—three watches.

(ii) If not more than 5000 gross tons and having more than 16 individuals on board primarily employed in the preparation of fish or fish products—two watches.

(iii) If not more than 5000 gross tons and having not more than 16 individuals on board primarily employed in