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Becoming a Coast Guard Licensed Captain

Terms to Know: (The following terms will help you understand the License explanations below)

Day of Sea Time: One day consists of a minimum of 4 hours underway (not at the dock or anchor!)

Uninspected Vessel: A vessel which does not require inspection from the USCG but meets CFR "C" regs.

Inspected Vessel: A vessel which requires annual inspection by the Coast Guard. Meets CFR "T" regs.

Routing: The licenses are applicable on Inland waters, Near Coastal or both. Your experience will determine the waters you qualify for.

Inland waters: Waters shoreward of Demarcation lines. Examples: Puget Sound, Columbia River, Great Lakes, most harbors.

Near Coastal: Waters seaward of Demarcation lines. Examples: All coastal waters around the U.S., most foreign waters.

Gross Tonnage: The CG uses this type of vessel measurement to determine the scope of your license - see Gross Tonnage Form.

OUPV (Six Pack)

The Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels allows you to take six or fewer passengers

for hire on uninspected vessels up to 100 gross tons. This is an excellent license for delivery work or running your own vessel for charter. Sailing vessels are included with the OUPV.

OUPV Requirements

- 360 days experience on Inland or Near Coastal waters
- 90 days (of the 360 total) must be within the last 3 years
- 90 days (of the 360 total) on Great Lakes to obtain a Great Lakes routing Sea Time
- 90 days (of the 360 total) on Near Coastal waters to obtain a Near Coastal routing.

Masters

Master Licenses allow you to take an unlimited number of passengers on inspected vessels. They have tonnage limitations and are issued in 25 ton increments up to 100 tons depending on your experience and sea time evaluation. A sailing endorsement is required for operation sailboats under a master license.

Masters Requirements

- Same requirements as OUPV with the following additions:
- For a Near Coastal route, you need 720 total days with at least 360 of these on Near Coastal waters.
- For a sailing endorsement, minimum of 180 days on sailing vessels
- Tonnage is awarded by the size of vessel on which a minimum of 45 days of recent time has been accrued.

Endorsements

Sailing

Sailing endorsements are available for your Masters License if you meet the above qualifications. This is not a separate License, but is added to your license at the time of issuance. USMA is approved to offer Sailing endorsements in class using our own curriculum and materials.

Commercial Assistance Towing

A Commercial Assistance Towing endorsement may be added to both your OUPV and Masters License. This allows you to be compensated for towing disabled vessels etc. It also is required if you wish to work on the various "vessel assist" programs. USMA's curriculum prepares you for this endorsement and offers it right in class

PLEASE EMAIL OR PRINT AND RETURN

Name: (printed as it will appear on your license)

Last: _____ MI: _____ First: _____

Mailing Address:

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Age: _____

Citizenship: _____

Social Security #: _____ (Homeland Security Requirement)

Do you have the following:

Yes ___ No ___ Social Security Card

Yes ___ No ___ Birth Certificate

Yes ___ No ___ First Aid/CPR (within the last 12 months)

Yes ___ No ___ Minimum of 360 days of sea time on registered vessels

Yes ___ No ___ 90 days of the total (360) days sea time within the last
3 years

How did you hear about the U.S. Maritime Academy:

___ Newspaper ___ Coast Guard

___ Flyer ___ Friend

___ Work ___ Other

Please register me in the USMA class specified above. I understand that the class size is limited and include a \$100 deposit to reserve my place in class and begin the Coast Guard application process. I understand that the registration fee will be applied toward tuition and is refundable if I am not approved.

Check enclosed

___ Yes

___ No

Please make checks payable to:

United States Maritime Academy

and mail to:

Capt. Richard J. Rodriguez

Maritime Services

1515 16th St.

Anacortes, WA 98221