



COMDTINST 1650.18

18 JAN 2017

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 1650.18

Subj: MASTER MARINE INSPECTOR CERTIFICATE

Ref: (a) CG-CVC Policy Letter 15-02 Definition of Apprentice, Journeyman, Advanced
Journeyman Marine Inspector, dated 16 Oct 2015.
(b) CG-CVC Policy Letter 15-01 Enlisted Assistant Marine Inspector Qualification Policy,
dated 13 Aug 2015.

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction establishes policies, procedures, and standards for the administration of the Master Marine Inspector Certificate program.
2. ACTION. This certificate program is voluntary. Internet release is authorized.
3. DIRECTIVE AFFECTED. None.
4. DISCUSSION.
 - a. The safety inspection of merchant vessels documented under the flag of the United States has been authorized in varying degrees by Congress and required by law since 1838. The legacy of today's Marine Inspector begins with the Steamboat Inspection Service which was created by Congress in 1871 in response to a significant number of deaths on the high seas and along the coast and river banks of this country. Originally, there were nine supervisory inspectors, each responsible for a specific geographic region, to inspect commercial steam vessels in order to safeguard lives and property at sea.
 - b. The Steamboat Inspection Service was combined with the Bureau of Navigation in 1932 and this new organization was in turn renamed the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation in 1936. As a wartime measure, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9083 on February 28, 1942, temporarily transferring the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the control of the Coast Guard. This transfer was made permanent by Reorganization Plan Number 3 on July 16, 1946.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 168

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	
A																											
B	X	X	X																								
C					X								X	X											X		
D																											
E					X									X													
F																											
G																											
H					X			X																			

NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

- c. Since the time of the Steamboat Inspection Service, all Marine Inspectors have assumed a tremendous amount of responsibility safeguarding the lives of the passengers and crews on board the vessels they inspect. To accomplish this, all Marine Inspectors must be knowledgeable of their craft, thorough in their evaluation, skilled at partnering and clear in their communication. In addition, true Marine Inspectors never stop learning their trade and are always willing to share this knowledge and mentor future Marine Inspectors.
 - d. The Master Marine Inspector Certificate honors those in this noble and challenging field that have 12 or more years of “bag carrying” service and who have developed the advanced competencies that significantly exceed the minimum requirements of an Advanced Journeyman Marine Inspector, as defined in Reference (a). The Master Marine Inspector Certificate also commends those Advanced Journeyman Marine Inspectors whose character, dedication and performance clearly epitomize the spirit of the Steamboat Inspection Service and the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation.
5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide operational guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
 6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
 - a. The development of this Instruction and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Management, and are categorically excluded (CE) under current USCG CE # 33 from further environmental analysis, in accordance with Section 2.B.2. and Figure 2-1 of the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series).
 - b. This Instruction will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this Instruction must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates.
 7. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Instruction. An electronic version will be located on the Commandant (CG-612) web sites. Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/directives/>, and CGPortal: <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.
 8. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Instruction has been evaluated for potential records management impacts. The development of this Instruction has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are no further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not have any significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.

9. **DESCRIPTION.** The certificate will be printed on large off-white canvas paper suitable for framing. Each certificate will be numbered, capturing the sequence of each certificate issued. **Note:** Certificate number does not indicate order of importance or seniority in any way. The text of the certificate will be as follows:

*To all hammer-swinging, inspection-bag-toting, fire-hose-stomping, 835-writing
Marine Inspectors who have spent time ensuring the safety and security of
commercial ships and their mariners, from ghosts of the Steamboat Inspection
Service and Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard,
wherever ye may be;
Let it be known that*

*has been on-call on the deck plates, in double bottoms and drydocks, inspecting
all manner of vessels and their construction, from navigation gear to machinery,
lifeboats to marine boilers, cargo ships to tall ships, and otherwise providing a
marine safety presence aboard the merchant fleet, foreign and domestic,
sufficient to facilitate commerce but designed to
“save lives before lives need saving” for ___ years.*

*Accordingly, all Marine Inspectors with lesser time honing their craft and those
unaccustomed to wearing boiler suits or coveralls and crawling bilges shall
show due honor and respect at all times.*

10. **ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.** Officers and Civilians must meet the following requirements:
- a. Candidates must have attended the Marine Inspector Course (MIC).
 - b. Qualifying service time starts when the candidate reports to a Marine Inspector Billet or has completed MIC, whichever is the earliest date. Qualifying service time for Officers and Civilians who were Enlisted Assistant Marine Inspectors (EAMI), as defined in Reference (b), will be credited from the date of their first EAMI qualification after the candidate has attended MIC.
 - c. Candidates must have 12 years of service time in qualifying billets, listed below, in order to receive credit toward the certificate.
 - d. Candidates must have earned AJMI status and have obtained four of the ten advanced competencies as defined in Reference (a).
 - e. In addition, candidates must have at least four years of experience in qualifying billets, listed below, after obtaining AJMI status.
 - f. Officers on Active Duty and current Civilian employee candidates must also provide a memo from their Sector Commander, Commanding Officer, or Supervisor (O-6/GS15) attesting to the fact that they, after obtaining AJMI status, have served as a technical expert, provided professional marine inspector advice to OCMIs, and demonstrated the utmost dedication and

commitment towards ensuring the safety and security of passengers and crew who sail on commercial ships.

11. QUALIFYING BILLETS.

- a. Sector, Marine Safety Unit, Detached Duty and Activities Marine Inspectors
- b. Marine Inspections Training Officers (MITO)
- c. Marine Safety Detachment Supervisors (includes Regional Inspection Offices)
- d. Chief of Inspections (CID)
- e. National Centers of Expertise (Qualified Marine Inspector)
- f. Traveling Marine Inspectors (CG-5P-TI)
- g. Legacy Marine Inspector Billets (MIOs, MSOs, Group/MSOs, Activities)

12. EXECUTION. Commandant (CG-741) is the program owner and is responsible for verifying the qualifying inspections time of potential recipients and for issuing certificates. Any candidate (active duty, current civilian employees or retired Coast Guard personnel) who meet the listed criteria may provide Commandant (CG-741) with official documentation (Officer Evaluation Report, Employee Summary Sheet, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD Form 214, etc.) proving eligibility. Commandant (CG-741) will create a certificate with the member's name and time conducting marine inspections. The certificate will be signed by the Commandant and delivered to the recipient by Commandant (CG-741). Only one certificate will be issued during a member's career; therefore, if an eligible recipient desires a certificate closer to retirement, or to capture more time, they should contact Commandant (CG-741) for direction.

13. FUNDING. Commandant (CG-741), in coordination with Commandant (CG-83), is responsible for printing and mailing certificates. Framing or a special ceremony honoring the recipient is optional and at the discretion and expense of the local Command.

14. REVIEW. Should changes occur to the Shore Forces Enterprise that either create or eliminate entities or units that conduct marine inspections CG-741, CG-5P-CVC and CG-5P-TI will review these changes and make any necessary amendments to this Instruction.

15. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

16. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. All requests for changes should be directed to Commandant (CG-741).

J. P. NADEAU /s/
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Capability