



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG-2017-0768]

Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

AGENCY: U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee and its Working Groups will meet to discuss various issues related to the training and fitness of merchant marine personnel. The meetings will be open to the public.

DATES: The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee and its Working Groups are scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 26, 2017, from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., and the full Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday October 27, 2017, from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Please note that these meetings may adjourn early if the Committee has completed its business.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the U.S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center in the Dales Larson Room on the third floor, 100 Forbes Drive, Martinsburg, WV 25404-0001(<https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/>).

Pre-registration Information: Pre-registration is required for access to U.S. Coast Guard, National Maritime Center. Foreign nationals participating will be required to pre-register no later than 4 p.m. on October 11, 2017, to be admitted to the meeting. U.S. citizens participating will be required to pre-register no later than 4 p.m. on October

18, 2017, to be admitted to the meeting. To pre-register, contact Mr. Davis Breyer at davis.j.breyer@uscg.mil or (202)372-1445. You will be asked to provide your name and telephone number. In addition, please provide the company or group in which you are affiliated. Foreign nationals will also need to provide your country of citizenship, passport country, country of residence, place of birth, passport number, and expiration date. All attendees will be required to provide a REAL ID Act-compliant government-issued picture identification card in order to gain admittance to the building. For more information on REAL ID and to check the compliance status of your state/territory, please see <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id> and <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs>.

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact the Alternate Designated Federal Officer as soon as possible using the contact information provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

Instructions: You are free to submit comments at any time, including orally at the meetings, but if you want Committee members to review your comment before the meetings, please submit your comments no later than October 18, 2017. We are particularly interested in comments on the issues in the “Agenda” section below. You must include “Department of Homeland Security” and the docket number USCG-2017-0768. Written comments may also be submitted using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. If you encounter technical difficulties with comments submission, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section below. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. You may

review the Privacy and Security Notice for the Federal Docket Management System at <https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice>.

Docket Search: For access to the docket to read documents or comments related to this notice, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2017-0768 in the “Search” box, press Enter, and then click on the item you wish to view.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Davis Breyer, Alternate Designated Federal Officer of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE, Stop 7509, Washington, DC, 20593-7509, telephone 202-372-1445, fax 202-372-8382 or davis.j.breyer@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given pursuant to the *Federal Advisory Committee Act*, Title 5 United States Code Appendix.

The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee was established under authority of section 310 of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, codified at Title 46, United States Code, section 8108, and chartered under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, (Title 5, United States Code, Appendix). The Committee acts solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security through the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards and other matters as assigned by the Commandant. The Committee shall also review and comment on proposed U.S. Coast Guard regulations and policies relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards; may be given special assignments by the Secretary and may

conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments; and shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary.

Agenda

Day 1

The agenda for the October 26, 2017, meeting is as follows:

(1) The full Committee will meet briefly to discuss the Working Groups' business/task statements, which are listed under paragraph 3(a)–(h) below.

(2) Working Groups will separately address the following task statements which are available for viewing at <https://homeport.uscg.mil/merpac>:

(a) Task Statement 87, Review of policy documents providing guidance on the implementation of the December 24, 2013, International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers rulemaking;

(b) Task Statement 96, Review and comment on the course and program approval requirements including 46 CFR 10.402, 10.403, 10.407 and Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 03-14 guidelines for approval of training courses and programs;

(c) Task Statement 98, Continue the progress made by the military services towards meeting the goals on the use of Military Education, Training and Assessment for STCW and National Mariner Endorsements as identified in the Howard

Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 and subsequent legislation;

(d) Task Statement 99, Review and comment on the “Guidelines for Issuing Endorsement for Tankerman PIC Restricted to Fuel Transfers on Towing Vessels” policy letter (CG-MMC Policy Letter No. 01-17);

(e) Task Statement 100, Provide input to MARAD’s working group that will examine and assess the size of the pool of U.S. mariners necessary to support the U.S. flag fleet in times of national emergency;

(f) Task Statement 101, Provide feedback and avenues to further enhance open communication between external stakeholders and the U.S. Coast Guard’s mariner credentialing program regarding all aspects of the program;

(g) Task Statement 102, Consider and make recommendations regarding the current requirement for a U.S. Merchant Mariner to read and write using English;

(h) Task Statement 103, Input to Support Regulatory Reform of Coast Guard Regulations-Executive Orders 13771 and 13783.

(3) Public comment period.

(4) Reports of Working Groups. At the end of the day, the Working Groups will report to the full Committee on what was accomplished in their meetings. The full Committee will not take action on these reports on this date. Any official action taken as a result of these Working Group meetings will be taken on day two of the meeting.

(5) Adjournment of meeting.

Day 2

The agenda for the October 27, 2017, full Committee meeting is as follows:

- (1) Introduction.
- (2) Swear in newly appointed Committee members.
- (3) Remarks from U.S. Coast Guard Leadership.
- (4) Designated Federal Officer announcements.
- (5) Roll call of Committee members and determination of a quorum.
- (6) Reports from the following Working Groups:

(a) Task Statement 87, Review of policy documents providing guidance on the implementation of the December 24, 2013, International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers rulemaking;

(b) Task Statement 96, Review and comment on the course and program approval requirements including 46 CFR 10.402, 10.403, 10.407 and Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 03-14 guidelines for approval of training courses and programs;

(c) Task Statement 98, continue the progress made by the military services towards meeting the goals on the use of Military Education, Training and Assessment for STCW and National Mariner Endorsements as identified in the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 and subsequent legislation;

(d) Task Statement 99, Review and comment on the “Guidelines for Issuing Endorsement for Tankerman PIC Restricted to Fuel Transfers on Towing Vessels” policy letter (CG-MMC Policy Letter No. 01-17);

(e) Task Statement 100, Provide input to MARAD’s working group that will examine and assess the size of the pool of U.S. mariners necessary to support the U.S. flag fleet in times of national emergency;

(f) Task Statement 101, Provide feedback and avenues to further enhance open communication between external stakeholders and the U.S. Coast Guard's mariner credentialing program regarding all aspects of the program;

(g) Task Statement 102, consider and make recommendations regarding the current requirement for a U.S. Merchant Mariner to read and write using English;

(h) Task Statement 103, Input to Support Regulatory Reform of Coast Guard Regulations-Executive Orders 13771 and 13783.

(7) Other items for discussion:

(a) Report on the Mariner Credentialing Program;

(b) Report on National Maritime Center activities from the National Maritime Center Commanding Officer, such as medical requirements and legal authorities;

(c) Briefings about on-going U.S. Coast Guard projects related to personnel in the U.S. merchant marine.

(8) Public comment period.

(9) Discussion of Working Group recommendations.

The Committee will review the information presented on each issue, deliberate on any recommendations presented by the Working Groups, approve/formulate recommendations and close any completed tasks. Official action on these recommendations may be taken on this date.

(10) Closing remarks/plans for next meeting.

(11) Adjournment of meeting.

A public comment period will be held during each Working Group and full

Committee meeting concerning matters being discussed.

A copy of all meeting documentation will be available at <https://homeport.uscg.mil/merpac> no later than October 18, 2017. Alternatively, you may contact Mr. Davis Breyer as noted in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** section above.

Public comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker. Please note that the public comment periods will end following the last call for comments. Please contact Mr. Davis Breyer, listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, to register as a speaker.

Please note that the meeting may adjourn early if the work is completed.

Dated: September 18, 2017.

Jeffrey G. Lantz,

Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards.

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