

Collection; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of information subject to the Collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the Collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consistent with the requirements of Executive Order 13771, Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs, and Executive Order 13777, Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda, the Coast Guard is also requesting comments on the extent to which this request for information could be modified to reduce the burden on respondents. These comments will help OIRA determine whether to approve the ICR referred to in this Notice.

We encourage you to respond to this request by submitting comments and related materials. Comments to Coast Guard or OIRA must contain the OMB Control Number of the ICR. They must also contain the docket number of this request, [USCG–2020–0664], and must be received by February 11, 2021.

Submitting Comments

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <https://www.regulations.gov>, contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions. Documents mentioned in this notice, and all public comments, are in our online docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that website's instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments to the Coast Guard will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and submissions to the Coast Guard in response to this document, see DHS's eRulemaking System of Records notice (85 FR 14226, March 11, 2020). For more about privacy and submissions to OIRA in response to this document, see the <https://www.reginfo.gov>, comment-submission web page. OIRA posts its decisions on ICRs online at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain> after the comment period for each ICR. An OMB Notice of Action on each ICR will become available via a hyperlink in the OMB Control Number: 1625–0119.

Previous Request for Comments

This request provides a 30-day comment period required by OIRA. The Coast Guard published the 60-day notice (85 FR 66574, October 20, 2020) required by 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2). That notice elicited no comments. Accordingly, no changes have been made to the Collection.

Information Collection Request

Title: Coast Guard Exchange System Scholarship Application.

OMB Control Number: 1625–0119.

Summary: This information collected on this form allows the Coast Guard Exchange System Scholarship Program Committee to evaluate and rank scholarship applications in order to award the annual scholarships.

Need: Community Services Command Staff Instruction, CSCINST 1780 (series), provides policy and procedure for the award of annual scholarships from the Coast Guard Exchange System to dependents of Coast Guard members and employees. The information collected by this form allows for the awarding of scholarships based upon the criteria and procedures outlined in the Instruction under the auspices of 5 U.S.C. 301.

Forms: CG–5687.

Respondents: Coast Guard dependents.

Frequency: Annually.

Hour Burden Estimate: The estimated burden remains 120 hours per year.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: January 7, 2021.

Kathleen Claffie,

Chief, Office of Privacy Management, U.S. Coast Guard.

[FR Doc. 2021–00429 Filed 1–11–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2020–0181]

Guidance for Voluntarily Obtaining Merchant Mariner Credential Endorsements for Basic and Advanced Operations on Vessels Subject to the International Code of Safety for Ships Using Gases or Low Flashpoint Fuels

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces the availability of CG–MMC Policy Letter 01–21, titled “Guidelines for Obtaining STCW Endorsements for

Basic and Advanced IGF Code Operations.” This policy provides guidance for the issuance of Merchant Mariner Credential endorsements in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, and with the Seafarers’ Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, for Basic and Advanced Operations on vessels subject to the International Code of Safety for Ships Using Gases or Low Flashpoint Fuels.

DATES: CG–MMC Policy Letter 01–21 was issued January 4, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Policy Letter 01–21 is available in docket number USCG–2020–0181 on <http://www.regulations.gov>, and also on the National Maritime Center website at https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/policy_regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about this policy, contact James Cavo, U.S. Coast Guard Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division (CG–MMC–2); telephone (202) 372–1205, email James.D.Cavo@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted the International Code of Safety for Ships Using Gases or Other Low Flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code). The IGF Code addresses safety and environmental requirements for vessels using gases or other low flashpoint fuels as well as the level of training required for personnel serving on these vessels. Additionally, in order to define the training requirements supporting the IGF Code, IMO developed amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW Convention) and to the Seafarers’ Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Code)—the instruments that provide the international standards for mariner training. These amendments provide minimum standards of competence, sea service, and training for certification at the basic and advanced levels in IGF Code Operations.

The IGF Code and the associated amendments to the STCW Convention and to the STCW Code entered into force on January 1, 2017. These provisions set minimum standards of competence, sea service, and training for certification at the basic and advanced levels in IGF Code Operations. These minimum standards

apply to personnel on vessels subject to the IGF Code who have designated safety duties associated with or immediate responsibility for the care, use, or emergency response to the fuels on board a vessel using gases or low flashpoint fuels.

On February 19, 2015, the Coast Guard issued CG-OES Policy Letter 01-15,¹ “Guidelines for Liquefied Natural Gas Fuel Transfer Operations and Training of Personnel on Vessels Using Natural Gas as Fuel,” to provide voluntary guidance on fuel transfer operations and the training of personnel working on U.S. and foreign vessels that use natural gas as fuel and conduct liquefied natural gas (LNG) fuel transfer operations in waters subject to U.S. jurisdiction.²

On April 23, 2019, the Coast Guard issued CG-MMC Policy Letter 02-19,³ “Guidelines for Training of Personnel on Vessels Using Natural Gas and Other Low Flash Point Fuels.” This policy republished the training guidance provided in CG-OES Policy Letter 01-15 without any change to the content, but aligned the policy name with the organizational structure of the Merchant Mariner Credentialing program, which was reorganized in 2016.

CG-OES Policy Letter 01-15 and CG-MMC Policy Letter 02-19 were interim measures to better ensure that U.S. mariners were sufficiently trained to work aboard vessels using natural gas and other low flash point fuels. The Coast Guard did not issue endorsements to mariners who completed training in accordance with either policy.

Discussion of Policy Letter CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21

The Coast Guard will now begin issuing STCW endorsements in Basic and Advanced IGF Code Operations to mariners who voluntarily meet the STCW requirements for certification at the basic and advanced levels in IGF Code Operations. CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21⁴ provides information on how to qualify for and request the endorsements. The Coast Guard is

issuing these endorsements in response to industry requests and to facilitate maritime commerce. These endorsements are not currently mandated by Coast Guard regulation. However, because the United States is signatory to the STCW Convention, vessel owners and operators should be aware that their vessels are subject to foreign port state control actions, including detention, if mariners are not compliant with the STCW Convention and the STCW Code.

CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21 was issued January 4, 2021. The National Maritime Center will begin accepting applications for IGF Code Operations endorsements when this notice is published.

The difference between CG-MMC Policy Letter 02-19 and CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21 is that the Coast Guard will now issue MMC endorsements for Basic and Advanced IGF Code Operations to mariners who have voluntarily met the requirements for the endorsements. The Coast Guard expects that industry has already incurred costs from attending training for Basic and Advanced IGF Code Operations. However, we do not have data on how many mariners have completed training in IGF Code Operations, or how many would ultimately complete training due to the issuance of CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21. Therefore, we present here the total costs that may have occurred or would occur if our estimated population completes training for either Basic or Advanced IGF Code Operations.

The Coast Guard estimates this policy will generate a total cost to industry and the Federal Government of \$11,068,608 (\$10,917,059 for costs to industry and \$151,549 for costs to the Federal Government) in 2019 dollars discounted at 7 percent over the next 10 years. Table 1 presents the affected population, costs, and benefits associated with the implementation of the CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21. Table 1 below demonstrates these costs.

TABLE 1—SUMMARY OF AFFECTED POPULATION, COSTS, AND BENEFITS FOR ISSUING STCW ENDORSEMENTS FOR IGF CODE OPERATIONS—Continued

Affected population (annual average)	Annual average of 508 mariners and 4 STCW training providers
Total Costs to Industry Annualized (7% discount rate)	1,554,344
Total 10-year (7% discount rate)	10,917,059
Total Costs to the Federal Government Annualized (7% discount rate)	21,577
Total 10-year (7% discount rate)	151,549

The affected population may choose to submit CG-719B Application for Merchant Mariner Credential for an MMC endorsement in Basic or Advanced IGF Code Operations to the U.S. Coast Guard. Applications are submitted to a Coast Guard Regional Examination Center in accordance with 46 CFR 10.209.⁵ There is no fee associated with adding an STCW endorsement to an MMC. We estimate that 508 mariners would voluntarily submit MMC applications to the U.S. Coast Guard on an annual basis.⁷ The Coast Guard further estimates that this could lead to an increase of mariners’ annual hourly burden for submitting documentation by approximately 42 hours (508 mariners × 0.083 hours).

CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21 is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. The Coast Guard does not currently require any mariner to obtain the endorsements discussed in CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21. In other words, it is possible to comply with U.S. domestic legal obligations without undertaking the specific trainings, or obtaining the

⁵ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic applications are only being accepted via email. Under normal conditions applications may be submitted in person at a Regional Examination Center or via email at the mariner’s convenience.

⁶ https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/merchant_mariner_credential/ provides detailed instructions on how to submit an MMC application to the National Maritime Center.

⁷ According to the Liquefied Gas Carrier National Center, an annual average of approximately 508 mariners would need STCW endorsements for Basic or Advanced IGF Code Operations over the 10-year period from 2020–2029. See Coast Guard “IGF Code Policy Letter Cost Analysis,” which is available in the docket where indicated under the ADDRESSES portion of this notice. This can be found in the docket USCG–2020–0181 under “IGF Code Policy Letter Cost Analysis.”

TABLE 1—SUMMARY OF AFFECTED POPULATION, COSTS, AND BENEFITS FOR ISSUING STCW ENDORSEMENTS FOR IGF CODE OPERATIONS

Affected population (annual average)	Annual average of 508 mariners and 4 STCW training providers
Total Costs Annualized (7% discount rate)	\$1,575,921
Total 10-year (7% discount rate)	11,068,608

¹ This policy letter is available at <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/5ps/MMC/CG-MMC-2%20Policies/CG%20OES%20Policy%20Letter%2001-15%20signature%20with%20Enclosures.pdf?ver=2018-06-07-131254-300>.

² See **Federal Register** Notice, “Policy Letters: Guidance for the Use of Liquefied Natural Gas as a Marine Fuel”, which announced the availability of CG-OES Policy Letter 01-15 (80 FR 10131).

³ <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/5ps/MMC/CG-MMC-2%20Policies/CG-MMC%2002-19%20IGF%20Vessels.pdf?ver=2019-04-23-131748-703>.

⁴ CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21 is available in the docket where indicated under the ADDRESSES portion of this notice.

specific endorsements, described in CG–MMC Policy Letter 01–21.

Before creating any such requirement, the Coast Guard would undertake a separate rulemaking.

We issue this notice of availability in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and under the authority of 46 U.S.C. 7101. If you have questions about the policy letter, or believe that changes are necessary, please contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

Dated: January 7, 2021.

Jeffrey G. Lantz,

Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards.

[FR Doc. 2021–00372 Filed 1–11–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2020–0663]

Collection of Information Under Review by Office of Management and Budget; OMB Control Number 1625–0109

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Thirty-day notice requesting comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 the U.S. Coast Guard is forwarding an Information Collection Request (ICR), abstracted below, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), requesting an extension of its approval for the following collection of information: 1625–0109, Drawbridge Operation Regulations; without change.

Our ICR describes the information we seek to collect from the public. Review and comments by OIRA ensure we only impose paperwork burdens commensurate with our performance of duties.

DATES: You may submit comments to the Coast Guard and OIRA on or before February 11, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Comments to the Coast Guard should be submitted using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for docket number [USCG–2020–0663. Written comments and recommendations to OIRA for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under

30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

A copy of the ICR is available through the docket on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Additionally, copies are available from: COMMANDANT (CG–6P), Attn: Paperwork Reduction Act Manager, U.S. Coast Guard, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE, Stop 7710, Washington, DC 20593–7710.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A.L. Craig, Office of Privacy Management, telephone 202–475–3528, or fax 202–372–8405, for questions on these documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation and Request for Comments

This notice relies on the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended. An ICR is an application to OIRA seeking the approval, extension, or renewal of a Coast Guard collection of information (Collection). The ICR contains information describing the Collection’s purpose, the Collection’s likely burden on the affected public, an explanation of the necessity of the Collection, and other important information describing the Collection. There is one ICR for each Collection.

The Coast Guard invites comments on whether this ICR should be granted based on the Collection being necessary for the proper performance of Departmental functions. In particular, the Coast Guard would appreciate comments addressing: (1) The practical utility of the Collection; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden of the Collection; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of information subject to the Collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the Collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consistent with the requirements of Executive Order 13771, Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs, and Executive Order 13777, Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda, the Coast Guard is also requesting comments on the extent to which this request for information could be modified to reduce the burden on respondents. These comments will help OIRA determine whether to approve the ICR referred to in this Notice.

We encourage you to respond to this request by submitting comments and related materials. Comments to Coast Guard or OIRA must contain the OMB

Control Number of the ICR. They must also contain the docket number of this request, [USCG–2020–0663], and must be received by February 11, 2021.

Submitting Comments

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <https://www.regulations.gov>, contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions. Documents mentioned in this notice, and all public comments, are in our online docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that website’s instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments to the Coast Guard will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and submissions to the Coast Guard in response to this document, see DHS’s eRulemaking System of Records notice (85 FR 14226, March 11, 2020). For more about privacy and submissions to OIRA in response to this document, see the <https://www.reginfo.gov>, comment-submission web page. OIRA posts its decisions on ICRs online at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain> after the comment period for each ICR. An OMB Notice of Action on each ICR will become available via a hyperlink in the OMB Control Number: 1625–0109.

Previous Request for Comments

This request provides a 30-day comment period required by OIRA. The Coast Guard published the 60-day notice (85 FR 66572, October 20, 2020) required by 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2). That notice elicited no comments. Accordingly, no changes have been made to the Collection.

Information Collection Request

Title: Drawbridge Operation Regulations.

OMB Control Number: 1625–0109.

Summary: The Bridge Program receives approximately 412 requests from bridge owners per year to change the operating schedule of various drawbridges across the navigable waters of the United States. The information needed for the change to the operating schedule can only be obtained from the bridge owner and is generally provided to the Coast Guard in either written or electronic format.