

Supporting Statement for Applications for Merchant Mariner Credentials and Medical Certificates

OMB No.: 1625-0040

COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS: CG-718A, CG-719B, CG-719C, CG-719D, CG-719K, CG-719K/E,
CG-719P, CG-719S and Instruction

A. Justification

1. Circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), parts 10, 11, 12, 13, and 16, and International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW Convention) and the STCW Code, require that each applicant for a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) or Medical Certificate make written application to the Coast Guard.

The forms associated with this collection are—

Form #	Title	Burden / Response
CG-719B	Application for Merchant Mariner Credential	9 min.
CG-719K	Application for Medical Certificate	18 min.
CG-719K/E	Application for Medical Certificate, Short Form	10 min.
CG-719S	Small Vessel Sea Service Form	15 min.
CG-719P	DOT/USCG Periodic Drug Testing Form	5 min.
CG-719C	Disclosure Statement for Narcotics, DWI/DUI, and/or Other Convictions	10 min.
CG-719D	Application for Duplicate Merchant Mariner Credential and Medical Certificate	4.5 min.
CG-718A	Certificate of Discharge to Merchant Mariner	2 min.

An applicant will submit on a form CG-719B, Application for Merchant Mariner Credential, and provide documentation that they are medically fit to perform the functions of the credential sought on a Form CG-719K or Form CG-719K/E. The regulations also require that applicants for a MMC provide documentary evidence of sea service or accepted substitute of sea service; evidence of having passed a chemical test for dangerous drugs, and, documentation of safety and suitability, to include a criminal record review and information supplied by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). An applicant may use optional forms CG-719S, CG-719P, and CG-719C to meet these additional reporting requirements. The new form CG-719D is not a required form; applicants may use this form as an option to request issuance of a duplicate MMC or Medical Certificate. Additionally, the form CG-718A provides an alternate means of documenting sea service.

2. Purpose of the information collection.

The Coast Guard conducts this collection of information to determine eligibility for the issuance of a MMC and/or Medical Certificate, in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations. This evaluation is performed on occasion, meaning as submitted by the respondent when he or she applies for an MMC or Medical Certificate. In general, applicants for a MMC submit the CG-719B every five years for renewal or when seeking a new MMC endorsement, and applicants for the medical certificate submit the 719K every

two years or every five years, depending upon the type of credential or endorsements held and the applicant's medical status. The Coast Guard evaluates the collected information to determine whether applicants are qualified to serve under the authority of the requested credential with respect to their medical fitness, their professional qualifications, and their safety and suitability. Upon review of the information, the Coast Guard processes applications and issues MMCs and/or Medical Certificates to applicants who are qualified to serve without posing a significant threat to safety of life or property. If this collection of information was not performed, the Coast Guard's credentialing and prevention missions would be impaired; and the agency's ability to ensure the safety and security of U.S. ports and waterways would be significantly curtailed.

3. Consideration of the use of improved collection techniques.

The forms in this collection are available as a fillable PDF online at <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/forms/>. Applicants requesting a MMC or Medical Certificate may apply to any of the Regional Exam Centers (RECs) or other location designated by the Coast Guard. Applicants may contact the National Maritime Center (NMC) by mail at 100 Forbes Drive, Martinsburg, WV 25404, by email at IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or by contacting an agent in the Customer Service Center by telephone at 1-888-427-5662 or 304-433-3400. The Coast Guard estimates that about 90% of the responses are submitted electronically.

4. Efforts to identify duplication.

Each form in the CG-719 series collects a unique set of information, specific to a regulatory requirement for credentialing of merchant mariner applicants. However, since there is no requirement to attach forms to one another, or to submit all forms at the same time, each form collects sufficient personal identification data to ensure that forms may be properly matched to the correct applicant. Additionally, form CG-718A provides an alternate means of documenting sea service.

5. Methods to minimize the burden to small businesses if involved.

The information collection does not impact small businesses.

6. Consequences to the Federal program if collection were conducted less frequently.

The Coast Guard is mandated by law to issue MMCs and Medical Certificates to individuals found qualified as to age, character, habits of life, experience, professional qualifications, and physical fitness. Without the ability to collect this information the Coast Guard would not be able to adhere to statutory and regulatory requirements.

7. Special collection circumstances.

This information collection is conducted in a manner consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

8. Consultation.

A 60-day Notice was published in the Federal Register to obtain public comment on this collection (See [USCG-2025-0344]; December 1, 2025, 90 FR 55147) and 30-Day Notice (May 21, 2026 91 FR 29976) were published in the Federal Register to obtain public comment on this collection. The Coast Guard has not received any comments on this information collection.

First, the Coast Guard seeks comments on revisions to the form CG-719(series) as described below—

- The majority of changes to the forms in this collection are not associated with new statutory or regulatory authority, but rather improvements to the flow and quality of content, user functionality, and to aid the Coast Guard in processing applications.
- The forms have undergone significant reorganization in response to recommendations from the National Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (NMEDMAC), the National Merchant

Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (NMERPAC), and comments from the public provided at the NMEDMAC and NMERPAC public meetings. As an example, the wording, location and specificity of form instructions were revised to provide better clarity and to improve ease of use. Key instructions are now located within the corresponding section of the form to reduce the need for mariner applicants to flip back and forth between pages to search for instructions. This improvement is also expected to reduce processing delays caused by the submission of incomplete forms.

- Another improvement is that these forms will now provide an option for applicants to sign the forms using an electronic signature.
- Additional language was added to Criminal Record Review section of the CG-719B to clarify that mariners must disclose all convictions, including misdemeanors, and including convictions for boating infractions.

Second, the Coast Guard seeks comments on a new optional form CG-719D “Application for Duplicate Merchant Mariner Credential and Medical Certificate.” This form provides a convenient means for an individual to apply for a duplicate MMC or duplicate medical certificate.

Third, the Coast Guard seeks comments on adding form CG-718A “Certificate of Discharge to Merchant Mariner” into this collection. Coast Guard personnel use form CG-718A to evaluate an applicant for a MMC. Form CG-718A was previously accounted for under OMB Control Number 1625-0012.

9. Provide any payment or gift to respondents.

The Coast Guard does not provide payments or gifts to respondents in exchange for a benefit sought.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents.

There are no assurances of confidentiality provided to the respondents for this information collection. This information collection request is covered by the Merchant Mariner Licensing and Documentation System (MMLDS) Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) and Merchant Seamen’s Records System of Records Notice (SORN). Links to the PIA and SORN are provided below:

- <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/dhsuscgpia-015-merchant-mariner-licensing-and-documentation-system>
- <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-06-25/html/E9-14911.htm>

11. Additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature.

Questions of a sensitive nature are included to the extent required by the statute and the regulation and used by the Coast Guard to determine whether an applicant meets the safety and suitability, medical, and professional qualification standards for issuance of a Merchant Mariner Credential and medical certificate.

12. Estimates of annual hour and cost burdens to respondents.

- The estimated number of annual respondents is 90,529.
- The estimated number of annual responses is 286,298.
- The estimated hour burden is 57,333 hours.
- The estimated cost burden is \$3,095,982.

The burden to respondents is provided in Appendix A. We estimate that an application (CG-719B) itself takes approximately 9 minutes to complete, and may be e-mailed, faxed, mailed or hand carried to a Regional Examination Center for processing.¹ Applications may be accompanied by a CG-719K (18 minutes to complete/used by ~95% of respondents) or CG-719K/E (10 minutes to complete/used by ~5%

¹ Active-duty uniform service members may be eligible for an MMC application fee exemption. To obtain the exemption, the member must provide documentation of their service. We estimate that it takes about 15 minutes to prepare and submit the exemption request.

of respondents). In addition, other mariners, annually, only apply for the Medical Certificate by completing the CG-719K (~95%) or CG-719K/E (~5%). Optional forms CG-719S (15 minutes to complete), the CG-719P (5 minutes to complete) and the CG-719C (10 minutes to complete) may be used to provide documentary evidence of meeting additional certification requirements. We estimate that 100% of MMC applicants submit a form CG-719P, 100% a form CG-719S and 5% a form CG-719C.

Optional form CG-719D (4.5 minutes to complete) may be used to obtain a duplicate MMC or Medical Certificate. We estimate that 5% of mariners will submit the form annually.

Form CG-718A (2 minutes to complete) is used to document sea service. We estimate that 5% of mariners will submit the form annually.

For the wage rate, we averaged the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) wage rate for Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels (53-5021) and Sailors and Marine Oilers (53-5011) [May 2024, mean hourly rate, load factor 2.0, and rounded].²

13. Total annualized capital and start-up costs.

There are no capital, start-up or maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

14. Estimates of annualized cost to the Federal Government.

The estimated annual Federal Government cost is \$35,643,786 (see Appendix B). The cost is based on both Direct Costs to the Government and Indirect Costs (i.e., Contractor).

15. Reasons for the change in burden.

The change in burden is both a PROGRAM CHANGE and an ADJUSTMENT, as detailed below:

- Program Change – increase of 341 hours – due to inclusion of 2 forms. Specifically—
 - o CG-718D, an optional form to obtain a duplicate MMC or Medical Certificate.
 - o CG-718A, a form previously accounted for under 1625-0012. The Coast Guard is consolidating 1625-0012 into this collection, as the Certificate of Discharge to Merchant Mariner is used by Coast Guard personnel to evaluate an applicant for a MMC.
- Adjustment – decrease of 5,014 hours – due to a decrease in the estimated annual number of responses from 310,713 to 286,298.

Except as noted above, the reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and methodology for calculating burden, remain unchanged.

16. Plans for tabulation, statistical analysis and publication.

There are no current plans to publish the results of the collection of information.

17. Approval for not explaining the expiration date for OMB approval.

The Coast Guard will display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

The Coast Guard does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

² <https://data.bls.gov/oes/industry/000000> (accessed 09/24/2025).

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

This information collection does not employ statistical methods.