

§ 15.610 Master and mate (pilot) of towing vessels.

(a) Except as provided in this paragraph, every towing vessel of at least 8 meters (at least 26 feet) in length, measured from end to end over the deck (excluding sheer), must be under the direction and control of a person licensed as master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels or as master or mate of vessels of greater than 200 gross register tons holding either an endorsement on his or her license for towing vessels or a completed Towing Officer's Assessment Record (TOAR) signed by a designated examiner indicating that the officer is proficient in the operation of towing vessels. This does not apply to any vessel engaged in assistance towing, or to any towing vessel of less than 200 gross register tons engaged in exploiting offshore minerals or oil if the vessel has sites or equipment so engaged as its place of departure or ultimate destination.

(b) An officer may continue to operate towing vessels within any restrictions of his or her license from May 21, 2001, until the first renewal or upgrade of that license, but not later than May 21, 2006. Every towing vessel covered by paragraph (a) of this section must carry at least the following personnel:

(1) An officer designated Master and holding a license as—

- (i) Master of towing vessels;
- (ii) Master of towing vessels (Limited) when operating solely within a limited local area;
- (iii) Operator of uninspected towing vessels;
- (iv) Master of inspected, self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license; or
- (v) Mate or first-class pilot of inspected, self-propelled vessels with a license for service in vessels of greater than 200 gross register tons (Domestic service only).

(2) Another officer, if the vessel is operating more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period, holding a license—

- (i) Listed in 46 CFR 15.610(b)(1);
- (ii) As mate (pilot) of towing vessels;
- (iii) As second-class OUTV; or
- (iv) As mate of inspected, self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license.

(c) Any towing vessel operating in the pilotage waters of the Lower Mississippi River must be under the control of an officer who holds a first-class pilot's license or endorsement for that route, or meets the requirements of either paragraph (c)(1) or paragraph (c)(2) of this section as applicable:

(1) To operate a towing vessel with tank barges, or a tow of barges carrying hazardous materials regulated under part N or O of this subchapter, an officer in charge of the towing vessel must have completed 12 round trips over this route as an observer, with at least 3 of those trips during hours of darkness, and at least 1 round trip of the 12 within the last 5 years.

(2) To operate a towing vessel without barges, or a tow of uninspected barges, an officer in charge of the towing vessel must have completed at least four round trips over this route as an observer, with at least one of those trips during hours of darkness, and at least one round trip of the 12 within the last 5 years.

[USCG–1999–6224, 66 FR 20944, Apr. 26, 2001, as amended at 68 FR 35818, June 17, 2003; USCG–2008–0906, 73 FR 56508, Sept. 29, 2008]

Subpart F—Limitations and Qualifying Factors

§ 15.701 Officers Competency Certificates Convention, 1936.

(a) This section implements the Officers Competency Certificates Convention, 1936, and applies to each vessel documented under the laws of the United States navigating seaward of the Boundary Lines in part 7 of this chapter, except:

- (1) A public vessel;
- (2) A wooden vessel of primitive build, such as a dhow or junk;
- (3) A barge; and,
- (4) A vessel of less than 200 gross tons.

(b) The master, mates and engineers on any vessel to which this section applies must hold a license to serve in that capacity issued by the Coast Guard under part 10 of this chapter.

(c) A vessel to which this section applies, or a foreign flag vessel to which the Convention applies, may be detained by a designated official until that official is satisfied that the vessel