

**U.S. Department  
of Transportation**

**United States  
Coast Guard**

**U. S. Coast Guard  
Regional Examination Center  
455 Commercial Street  
Boston, MA 02109 - 1045**

**(617) 223- 3040  
Office Hours 0700 - 1500  
Monday - Friday**

16721

## VISION WAIVER REQUIREMENTS FOR MERCHANT MARINER LICENSES

- I. Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 10.205(d)(2) & (3) requires an applicant for a license to have uncorrected visual acuity of at least 20/200 in each eye correctable to at least 20/40 in each eye (Deck) and 20/50 in each eye (Engineer). If an applicant does not meet this criteria, provisions exist for a vision waiver.
2. The following items are required by this office in order to properly evaluate your request for a waiver:
  - a. A letter from yourself requesting a vision waiver.
  - b. A letter from an ophthalmologist or optometrist stating your uncorrected and corrected vision in both eyes. This letter should describe the medical condition(s) responsible for the reduced visual acuity and provide a diagnosis and prognosis concerning any ocular or other degenerative or deteriorating condition present. The letter must also address whether you have 100 degrees horizontal field of view.
  - c. Letters from three employers or tradesmen whom you have worked for or operated with who can attest to your ability to perform appropriate duties assigned without impairment due to vision.
3. Your waiver may be evaluated locally or forwarded to Coast Guard Headquarters for review depending on your corrected and/or uncorrected visual acuity.

Revised 12/11/98

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## HEARING WAIVER REQUIREMENTS FOR MERCHANT MARINER LICENSES

1. Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 10.205(d) and 10.209(d) require license applicants to meet specific minimum physical standards to obtain or retain a license. If an applicant does not meet the minimum hearing criteria, provisions exist for a hearing waiver. A waiver would be required if a doctor indicates impaired hearing and provides an audiogram indicating a threshold of over 40 db at any frequency between 500 and 3000 hertz in either ear.
2. A letter requesting a hearing waiver must be submitted by the applicant and should include an audiological evaluation with a functional speech discrimination assessment at 55 db. An evaluation is also required if an applicant's hearing is corrected with a hearing aid(s).
3. Depending on the severity of hearing loss, a waiver could be evaluated at the Regional Examination Center or be forwarded to Coast Guard headquarters for review.

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## DIABETES

Insulin dependent diabetes or unstable diabetes is considered disqualifying for issuance of original licenses and Merchant Mariner's Documents. Applicants with diabetes, which is controlled by diet and/or oral medication, are considered physically eligible provided the condition is stable.

Waivers are required for renewal and raise in grade. In support of the waiver request, applicants must submit a statement from their physician which addresses:

- a. A brief history of the applicants' diabetes.
- b. The extent of the applicants' diabetes education.
- c. Description of any hospitalization in the past 12 months.
- d. The stability of the applicants' diabetes.
- e. The applicants' ability to monitor blood glucose and adjust insulin dosage.
- f. Any other chronic medical condition.
- g. A list of all medications, dosage and frequency.
- h. Copies of medical record entries for the past 18 months.
- i. A copy of the lab report of a recent glycosolated hemoglobin (hemoglobin A 1 c).

The waiver applicant should provide a written statement that they have not been hospitalized in the past 12 months and that they are able to maintain diabetic control by monitoring blood glucose and adjusting insulin dosage, and any other relevant factors.

Any questions should be addressed to a licensing evaluator at the above address or telephone number.