

AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-006

T-APPROACH FOR THROWING HEAVING LINE

QUESTION:

“The USCG uses a T-Approach for throwing a heaving line. Can the Auxiliary use this method?”



AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

COX-08-05-AUX does not reference the use of the T-Approach for throwing the heaving line; however specifies station keeping alongside the disabled vessel using the "Optimum" position for throwing a heaving line. If the first throw is unsuccessful, the vessel is still in position for a second throw. The optimum position is the towing vessel stern alongside disabled vessel bow (20 feet apart).

A discussion with the USCG indicates crossing the “T” is generally used in heavy weather specifically for a stable platform for throwing the heaving line. Since towing for the Auxiliary is done in calm waters (Sea state less than one foot), they should use the optimum position as indicated above.

Since this is a Boat Crew task, BCM-07-03-AUX references the target boat must be 20 feet apart at the time of the toss (heaving line).

The goal for throwing a heaving line is for the Coxswain to maneuver the vessel into a position where it is convenient for the Crewman to get the line across to the disabled

There is no reason why the Auxiliary cannot practice “Crossing the T” method in case it becomes necessary; however on a QE checkride, the alongside method is preferred.

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