



16790 / AUX-PL-009(A)  
BSX Policy Letter 21-03  
XX Jun 2021

From: S. L. JOHNSON, CAPT  
COMDT (CG-BSX)

Reply to CDR E. Cruz  
Att of: (202) 372-1268

To: Distribution

Subj: AUXILIARY COXSWAIN AND BOAT CREW INITIAL QUALIFICATION NIGHT  
TASKS NO LONGER WAIVERABLE

Ref:

- (a) Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual, COMDTINST M16794.51 (series)
- (b) Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Guide Volume I: Crew Member COMDTINST M16794.52 (series)
- (c) Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Guide Volume II: Coxswain COMDTINST M16794.53 (series)

- 1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this policy letter is to make nighttime initial qualification tasks mandatory as part of the initial qualification process for Coxswain and Boat Crew Member.
- 2) ACTION. All District Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Operations Training Officers (OTO), and Auxiliarists must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter.
- 3) BACKGROUND. Per reference (a), section 3.C.3, the Director may waive initial qualification tasks on a case-by-case basis, given the mission requirements, the nature of the waters, or if the task is not operationally required for the geographic area. This includes task BCM-08-02-AUX *Perform as a Crew Member During a Night Navigation and Piloting Exercise* and task COX-09-04-AUX *Perform a Night Navigation and Piloting Exercise*. Waiving these two tasks increases the risk associated with night navigation in the event the operation extends into night hours, or if Auxiliary surface assets are needed for a response. Requiring all Auxiliary Coxswains and Boat Crew Members to complete nighttime qualification tasks will expose crews to the nighttime operational environment and improve night piloting navigation proficiency.
- 4) DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. These changes will be incorporated into the next revisions of references (a), (b), and (c).
- 5) DISCLAIMER. This Policy Letter is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it a rule. It is intended to define requirements for Auxiliary personnel and is not intended to, nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
- 6) MAJOR CHANGES. The following initial qualification tasks are no longer waiverable:

- a) BCM-08-02-AUX *Perform as a Crew Member During a Night Navigation and Piloting Exercise*
  - b) COX-09-04-AUX *Perform a Night Navigation and Piloting Exercise*
- 7) **QUESTIONS.** Questions concerning this policy letter should be directed to the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division COMDT (CG-BSX-1) at [CGAUX@uscg.mil](mailto:CGAUX@uscg.mil). This policy letter and other policy documents are posted on the CG Auxiliary website at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=risk-mgt>
- 8) **REQUEST FOR CHANGES.** Units and individuals may recommend changes in writing via the chain of command to Commandant (CG-BSX-1), ATTN: Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1), U. S. Coast Guard Stop 7501, 2703 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVE SE, WASHINGTON DC 20593-7501.
- 9) Internet release is authorized.

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