

AUXILIARY TELECOMMUNICATIONS PQS

A new Personal Qualification Standard (PQS) for Auxiliary Telecommunications has been developed and approved by the Auxiliary and CG-5421. This PQS is a task-oriented qualification guide, designed to provide the members with focused training and enhanced skills to deal with both internal and external radio communications. Successful completion of the PQS will qualify the candidate as a Telecommunications Operator (TCO).

Effective 1 August 2008, all new applicants for fixed land or land mobile radio facility certification and/or operation must be certified as a TCO. However, current AUXCOM-rated members will continue to be eligible for facility ownership and operation indefinitely, as long as their AUXCOM was earned prior to August 1, 2008. All radio communicators, AUXCOM or not, are encouraged to qualify as TCOs through completion of this PQS.

This PQS will be available on-line from the National Auxiliary Operations' Web site and from the Chief Director's Web site. Paper copies will be available from the Auxiliary National Supply Center.

As of 1 August 2008, the following will be in effect;

1. The Telecommunications PQS and its elements will be adopted and in effect.
2. Members holding AUXCOM earned prior to 1 August 2008 may continue to operate and own radio facilities.
3. Successful completion of this PQS and certification as a TCO will be required for any Auxiliarist operating a radio facility under orders or applying for a radio facility certification after 1 August 2008 (unless prior AUXCOM-rated). Trainees may continue to operate radio facilities under the direct supervision of a TCO or AUXCOM-rated (prior to 1 August 2008) member.
4. All members operating radio facilities are encouraged to qualify as a TCO, whether prior AUXCOM or not.
5. Operation of radios on Auxiliary aircraft and vessels under orders is unaffected. Boat Crew and/ or Flight Crew qualification will continue as presently constituted to provide training and authorization for use of vessel and aircraft radios.
6. Telecommunications PQS completion will be a mentored process as described in the PQS document, designed to be implemented primarily at the flotilla level.
7. Once a member completes their Telecommunications PQS, it shall be reviewed and approved by a communications staff officer (CM) who holds either AUXCOM (earned prior to 1 August 2008) or TCO.
8. The completed & CM-approved Telecommunications PQS shall be submitted to DIRAUX for certification and entry into AUXDATA.
9. Radio facility inspections may only be conducted by a Communications Staff Officer who has successfully completed the TCO PQS or AUXCOM (prior to 1 August 2008), or a member (not Comms Staff Officer) who has completed the required qualification and been specially designated by the Director. Until AuxData can be re-programmed, Directors who find members qualified to conduct Radio Facility Inspections by completing the new PQS must submit the individual's name directly to Bob Platt so he can coordinate with OSC to make such entries into AuxData.