

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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BSX Policy Letter 22-09
14 Apr 2022

From: /T. P. Glendye, CAPT/
Chief, Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety

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

To: Distribution

Subj: AUXILIARY NAVIGATION RULES EXAM UPDATE

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual, COMDTINST M16794.51A (series), Ch. 5.A.6
(b) Coast Guard Deck Watch Officer Examination Program, COMDTINST 16672.5 (series)

1. **PURPOSE**. The purpose of this policy letter is to update the five-year requirements and Navigation Rules (NAVRULES) examination in reference (a).
2. **ACTION**. All Auxiliary coxswains and PWC operators must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter. Elected and appointed leaders and program managers at all levels of the Auxiliary organization shall ensure adherence to this Policy Letter.
3. **BACKGROUND**. Reference (a) requires coxswains and PWC operators to pass an open-book Auxiliary Navigation Rules examination at least every five years with a minimum score of 90 percent. Members failing to complete the open-book exam within the five-year period are considered lapsed and must retake the closed-book exam and achieve a minimum score of 90 percent to regain certification and receive orders. The current policy is not clear in its intent, nor is it in line with the Coast Guard policy in reference (b). In addition, the current policy does not allow Auxiliarists to get credit for commercial NAVRULES/Deck Watch Officer (DWO) examinations.
4. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED**. These changes will be incorporated into the next revision of reference (a).
5. **MAJOR CHANGES**. The policy changes below are effective immediately:
 - a. An open-book NAVRULES examination must be administered to Auxiliarists who have previously passed an Initial Examination (NAV70) (closed-book) or a Renewal Examination (NAV95) (open-book) within the last five years. This five-year period of eligibility commences on the date of their last successful examination.

- b. The only authorized NAV70 and NAV95 tests to be administered can be found [National Testing Center - United States Coast Guard Auxiliary \(cgaux.org\)](https://www.cgaux.org). The NAV70 test is required to be proctored. Proctors shall be appointed by the cognizant District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX).
- c. Auxiliarists who have taken a commercial course approved by the National Maritime Center (NMC) should submit a copy of a signed certificate from the course provider to their DIRAUX to apply for credit. A current list of approved courses may be found on the NMC website: https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/training_assessments/. Click on "Approved Courses," then search for "USCG Deck Watch Officer." Only these course providers meet the Coast Guard requirement for NAVRULES/DWO exams.
- d. For the NAVRULES/DWO commercial equivalency, AUXDATA II will use (NAVRULES-COMMERCIAL SOURCE (70)) to document an Auxiliarist's completion of the NAVRULES/DWO exam equivalent via a commercial provider when entering in AUXDATA II.
- e. Coxswains who have exceeded a period of five years since the date of their last examination will lose their certification and be placed in REYR status until they have passed the Initial Examination (closed-book).
- f. *For example:* An Auxiliary coxswain takes the Initial Examination (closed-book) on 30 January 2020. The open-book renewal exam anniversary date is 30 January 2025. If the Auxiliarist fails to take and pass an open-book renewal exam on or before 30 January 2025, then their certification will lapse, they will be placed in REYR status, and they will be required to take the Initial Examination (closed-book) in order to be removed from REYR status and recertify as a coxswain.
- g. It is not the intent of this policy to penalize Auxiliarists for taking an open-book exam on a regular basis (i.e., annually) in order to "restart" their five-year period. If an Auxiliarist fails an interim attempt, the original successful completion date remains in effect until the five-year period is exceeded.

6. **DISCLAIMER.** This Policy Letter is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it a rule. It is intended to define requirements for Auxiliarists and is not intended to, nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.

7. **QUESTIONS.** Questions concerning this Policy Letter should be directed to the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1) at CGAUX@uscg.mil. This Policy Letter and other policy documents are posted on the Coast Guard Auxiliary website at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=risk-mgt>

8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Policy Letter. An electronic version will be posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary and Coast Guard Auxiliary web sites: <http://agroup-bx.wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP> and <http://www.cgaux.org/>, respectively. All web sites in this Policy Letter are the most current available. If the cited web site link does not work, then access should be attempted by copying and pasting or typing the web site address into the user's internet browser.

9. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Units and individuals may recommend changes in writing via their cognizant Auxiliary chain of leadership 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.

10. Internet release is authorized.

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