

AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-013

MINIMUM CREW REQUIREMENT



QUESTION:

“My Operational Facility (OPFAC less than 26 feet) has minimum crew listed as One Coxswain and one Crew. I usually have a Coxswain and two Crew on my boat because of the way it is configured. Can I have two crew when I do a QE checkride?”

AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

Minimum Crew is required for a QE checkride. If Diraux has approved your OPFAC to have a minimum of two crew for all patrols even though only one crew is required under the guidelines, then you are allowed to have two crew aboard for a QE mission. The Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual and Qualification Guides require the candidate to perform the entire task; therefore each task must be repeated so the candidate can comply with the task. For example; towing evolution one crew on bow, the other crew at the stern. When the first tow evolution has been completed, the crew candidates reverse positions and a second tow evolution is performed to complete and comply with the task requirement.

The goal is for the candidate to perform all aspects of the task no matter what it takes to get the evolution done. Under the circumstances, it is probably not a good idea to use the opfac for the checkride especially when the weather is at extreme temperatures and you will be on the water longer than usual.

USCG Fifth District Southern Region Qualification Examiner (QE) management Processing Guide (Page 5-1) states;

“QE will be on testing facility which must be manned by minimum crew. No observers are allowed (w/exception of a QE-IT).”

*Warren D. Edman
AQEC/SNC
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From Quotations with Character by W. David Edman

“Teaching mariners about risk assessment is to explain their actions may affect their life expectancy.”