

46 U.S. Code § 8701 - Merchant mariners' documents required

(a) This section applies to a merchant vessel of at least 100 gross tons as measured under section [14502](#) of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section [14302](#) of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section [14104](#) of this title except—

- (1) a vessel operating only on rivers and lakes (except the Great Lakes);
- (2) a barge (except a seagoing barge or a barge to which chapter [37](#) of this title applies);
- (3) a fishing, fish tender, or whaling vessel or a yacht;
- (4) a sailing school vessel with respect to sailing school instructors and sailing school students;
- (5) an oceanographic research vessel with respect to scientific personnel;
- (6) a fish processing vessel entered into service before January 1, 1988, and not more than 1,600 gross tons as measured under section [14502](#) of this title, or an alternate tonnage measured under section [14302](#) of this title as prescribed by the Secretary under section [14104](#) of this title or entered into service after December 31, 1987, and having not more than 16 individuals on board primarily employed in the preparation of fish or fish products;
- (7) a fish processing vessel (except a vessel to which clause (6) of this subsection applies) with respect to individuals on board primarily employed in the preparation of fish or fish products or in a support position not related to navigation;
- (8) a mobile offshore drilling unit with respect to individuals, other than crew members required by the certificate of inspection, engaged on board the unit for the sole purpose of carrying out the industrial business or function of the unit;
- (9) a passenger vessel not engaged in a foreign voyage with respect to individuals on board employed for a period of not more than 30 service days within a 12 month period as entertainment personnel, with no duties, including emergency duties, related to the navigation of the vessel or the safety of the vessel, its crew, cargo or passengers; and
- (10) the Secretary may prescribe the individuals required to hold a merchant mariner's document serving onboard an oil spill response vessel.

(b) A person may not engage or employ an individual, and an individual may not serve, on board a vessel to which this section applies if the individual does not have a merchant mariner's document issued to the individual under section [7302](#) of this title. Except for an individual required to be licensed or registered under this part, the document must authorize service in the capacity for which the holder of the document is engaged or employed.

(c) On a vessel to which section [10306](#) or [10503](#) of this title does not apply, an individual required by this section to hold a merchant mariner's document must exhibit it to the master of the vessel before the individual may be employed.

(d) A person (including an individual) violating this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of \$500.