

**U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security**

**United States  
Coast Guard**



Commanding Officer  
United States Coast Guard  
National Maritime Center

100 Forbes Drive  
Martinsburg, WV 25404  
Phone: (304) 433-3400  
Email: IASKNMC@uscg.mil

5354  
January 4, 2019

Dear U.S. Mariner,

Due to the federal government's partial lapse in appropriations for fiscal year 2019, the Coast Guard is unable to process mariner credentials in a timely manner. To provide relief to impacted mariners and under the authority of 46 United States Code § 7507, the Coast Guard is granting extensions effective immediately to national endorsements until March 31, 2019, for mariners whose credentials expire between December 22, 2018, and January 31, 2019.

All mariners sailing under the authority of their national endorsement(s) should print and retain a copy of this letter with their merchant mariner credential and produce it upon request by the U.S. Coast Guard, other agencies or officials. This extension does not apply to Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers endorsements or mariner medical certificates.

Applications submitted before or during the partial government shutdown will be processed as soon as possible once the National Maritime Center (NMC) is reopened and is legally authorized to begin operations.

If you have questions, visit the NMC website or contact the NMC Customer Service Center by using the NMC online chat system, by e-mailing [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil), or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K.R. Martin".

K. R. MARTIN  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commanding Officer