

**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

**United States
Coast Guard**

**U. S. Coast Guard
Regional Examination Center
455 Commercial Street
Boston, MA 02109 - 1045**

**(617) 223- 3040
Office Hours 0700 - 1500
Monday - Friday**

16721

HEARING WAIVER REQUIREMENTS FOR MERCHANT MARINER LICENSES

1. Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 10.205(d) and 10.209(d) require license applicants to meet specific minimum physical standards to obtain or retain a license. If an applicant does not meet the minimum hearing criteria, provisions exist for a hearing waiver. A waiver would be required if a doctor indicates impaired hearing and provides an audiogram indicating a threshold of over 40 db at any frequency between 500 and 3000 hertz in either ear.
2. A letter requesting a hearing waiver must be submitted by the applicant and should include an audiological evaluation with a functional speech discrimination assessment at 55 db. An evaluation is also required if an applicant's hearing is corrected with a hearing aid(s)
3. Depending on the severity of hearing loss, a waiver could be evaluated at the Regional Examination Center or be forwarded to Coast Guard headquarters for review.

Revised 12/11/98