

**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

#### VISION WAIVER REQUIREMENTS FOR MERCHANT MARINER LICENSES

- I. Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 10.205(d)(2) & (3) requires an applicant for a license to have uncorrected visual acuity of at least 20/200 in each eye correctable to at least 20/40 in each eye (Deck) and 20/50 in each eye (Engineer). If an applicant does not meet this criteria, provisions exist for a vision waiver.
2. The following items are required by this office in order to properly evaluate your request for a waiver:
  - a. A letter from yourself requesting a vision waiver.
  - b. A letter from an ophthalmologist or optometrist stating your uncorrected and corrected vision in both eyes. This letter should describe the medical condition(s) responsible for the reduced visual acuity and provide a diagnosis and prognosis concerning any ocular or other degenerative or deteriorating condition present. The letter must also address whether you have 100 degrees horizontal field of view.
  - c. Letters from three employers or tradesmen whom you have worked for or operated with who can attest to your ability to perform appropriate duties assigned without impairment due to vision.
- 3 Your waiver may be evaluated locally or forwarded to Coast Guard Headquarters for review depending on your corrected and/or uncorrected visual acuity

Revised 12/11/98