



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
COMMANDER MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND  
914 CHARLES MORRIS CT SE  
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20398-5540

REFER TO:

COMSCINST 12200.1  
N9  
4 October 2002

## COMSC INSTRUCTION 12200.1

Subj: U. S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR MARINERS ABOARD  
MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND VESSELS

Ref: (a) CMPI 330  
(b) 46 USC 8103  
(c) 46 USC 8101(g)  
(d) 46 CFR 10.201(e)

1. Purpose. To establish Military Sealift Command (MSC) policy on citizenship requirements for crewmembers aboard certain MSC controlled vessels.

### 2. Applicability

a. This instruction is applicable to all government owned/contract operated vessels and contractor owned/contractor operated chartered vessels of 6 months or longer. These vessels collectively are referred to herein as "contractor crewed vessel(s)" (CCV).

b. This instruction does not apply to vessels that are required to be foreign flagged by host nation or other statutory/Status Of Forces Agreement (SOFA) requirements that prevent the use of U. S. Citizens.

c. This instruction does not apply to MSC civil service mariner crewed vessels. Reference (a) establishes citizenship requirements for MSC civil service mariner crewed vessels.

d. This instruction does not apply to contracts entered into prior to the effective date of this instruction for either the operation of USNS vessels or for a time charter, unless and until modified to incorporate this instruction.

e. All new contracts for the operation of CCVs, as described in paragraph 2a above, shall include a requirement to be crewed in accordance with paragraph 4, below, unless a deviation to this policy is granted by COMSC (N00).

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### 3. Background

a. Reference (b) establishes citizenship requirements for all U. S. documented vessels, other than public vessels. Only a citizen of the United States may serve as master, chief engineer, radio officer or officer in charge of a deck watch or engineering watch on a documented vessel. Additionally, each unlicensed seaman must be a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; and not more than 25 percent of the total number of unlicensed seamen on the vessel may be aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.

b. Reference (c) states that a person may not employ an individual as, and an individual may not serve as, a master, mate, engineer, radio officer, or pilot of a vessel if the individual is not licensed by the Secretary of Transportation.

c. Reference (d) states that no USCG license or certificate of registry may be issued to any person who is not a citizen of the United States.

### 4. Policy

a. Only a citizen of the United States may serve aboard a CCV described in paragraph 2a in a position requiring a USCG license. Additionally each unlicensed seaman must be a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; and not more than 25 percent of the total number of unlicensed seamen on the vessel may be aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.

b. Notwithstanding reference (b), an individual who is not a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence may not at any time serve as a mariner aboard a CCV vessel.

5. Responsibilities. Program Managers (PM1/PM2/PM3/PM5) and Director, Contracts and Business Management Directorate (N10) will:

a. Ensure the requirement for all vessels to be crewed in accordance with this instruction is included in the Statement of Work for all new contracts.

b. Issue contract modifications that incorporate the requirements established in this instruction to all current time charters and operating contracts as practicable.

c. Monitor and enforce contractor compliance with these requirements and administer non-compliance waivers and exceptions.

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