



STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS

STATEMENT OF POLICY

**REGARDING: Extension of Merchant Mariner Credentials, Medical
Certificates, and Washington State Pilot Licenses
and Annual Physical Requirements Due to COVID-19**

It is the policy of the Board that due to the novel coronavirus and the disease it causes (COVID-19) the Board will employ its disciplinary discretion consistent with the following steps taken by the United States Coast Guard published via Marine Safety Information Bulletin 08-20, Change 5, Dated December 22, 2020 titled *COVID-19 – Mariner Credentials, Extension of Merchant Marine Credential Endorsements, Medical Certificates, and Course Approvals*.

“National Endorsements: Under 46 USC Section 7507, Merchant Mariner Credentials may only extend for up to one year from their date of expiration. Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC) (National Endorsements only) that expire between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 are extended until the EARLIER of:

- October 31, 2021; OR
- One (1) year after the initial expiration date of the credential (i.e., one year after the expiration date printed on the credential).”

“Pilot Annual Physical examinations: 46 USC 7101(e)(3) requires that pilots undergo an annual physical examination each year while holding a credential. The Coast Guard does not intend to enforce this requirement given the current pandemic and its impacts on health care providers. This measure ONLY relaxes the requirement for an annual physical and not the actual medical standards. This posture applies until October 31, 2021 irrespective of when the medical certificate expires. It is important that pilots with disqualifying medical conditions do not sail.”

Consistent with the above-mentioned federal documentation and in concert with the U.S. Coast Guard, the BPC will not discipline any Washington State licensed pilot for failure to obtain the otherwise required annual renewal or physical examination by the dates outlined above.