



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Maritime
Administration**

MANUAL OF ORDERS

MARITIME ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

REVOKES

NO.

150-2

EFFECTIVE DATE

April 3, 2007

SUBJECT

Finding and Enforcement Directive

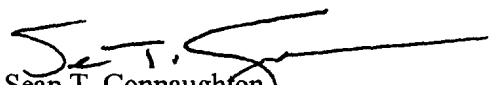
Section 1. Purpose: This order is an exercise of the Maritime Administrator's prosecutorial discretion regarding what employment aboard a vessel can be used to satisfy the graduate employment service obligation for U.S. Merchant Marine Academy graduates (USMMA) and State academy participants in the Student Incentive Payment (SIP) Program, 46 U.S.C. §51306(a)(5) and 46 U.S.C. §51509(d)(5). Maritime Administration personnel are directed to follow this directive with respect to the enforcement of the service obligation.

Section 2. Determination:

2.01 The Maritime Administrator has determined that having graduates performing shipboard service in certain qualified employment positions, (whether on U.S. flag or foreign flag vessels, in foreign or domestic commerce, serving international, coastal, inland, and harbor trades) benefits the U.S. maritime industry, professions and marine sciences. Such employment creates a pool of U.S.-citizen seafarers whose experience and expertise can be drawn upon for the commercial and competitive benefit of the United States as well as in response to a threat to the nation's security. A graduate's first priority is afloat employment on US flag vessels; however, afloat employment is no longer limited to only sailing as merchant marine officers on U.S. documented vessels.

2.02 It is hereby determined that:

- 1 Subject to paragraph 4 below, Qualified Maritime-Related Employment aboard any vessel, foreign flag or U.S. flag, in foreign or domestic commerce, serving international, coastal, inland, and harbor trades, can be used to satisfy a graduate's employment service obligations under the terms of 46 U.S.C. §51306(a)(5) and 46 U.S.C. §51509(d)(5);
- 2 No enforcement action shall be taken by Maritime Administration personnel for the reason of failure to be employed aboard a vessel by such graduates during any of the periods they were employed as described in paragraph 1.
- 3 "Qualified Maritime-Related Employment" is employment in the deck or engine departments (or their functional equivalents aboard vessels without deck and engine departments) of operating vessels. Only licensed or unlicensed vessel operating positions can serve as Qualified Maritime-Related Employment, i.e., mate, engineer, wiper, AB or ordinary seamen, etc.
- 4 A graduate seeking employment other than in an officer's position aboard a U.S. flag vessel must have that employment approved by the Maritime Administration prior to acceptance.


Sean T. Connaughton
Maritime Administrator