

**§ 96.420 What authority may an organization ask for under this regulation?**

(a) An organization may request authorization to conduct safety management audits and to issue the following certificates:

- (1) Safety Management Certificate;
- (2) Document of Compliance certificate;
- (3) Interim Safety Management Certificate; and
- (4) Interim Document of Compliance certificate.

(b) [Reserved]

**§ 96.430 How does an organization submit a request to be authorized?**

(a) A recognized organization must send a written request for authorization to the Commandant (CG–521), Office of Design and Engineering Standards, 2100 2nd St. SW., Stop 7126, Washington, DC 20593–7126. The request must include the following:

- (1) A statement describing what type of authorization the organization seeks;
- (2) Documents showing that—
  - (i) The organization has an internal quality system with written policies, procedures and processes that meet the requirements in § 96.440 of this part for safety management auditing and certification; or
  - (ii) The organization has an internal quality system based on ANSI/ASQC C9001 for safety management auditing and certification; or
  - (iii) The organization has an equivalent internal quality standard system recognized by the Coast Guard to complete safety management audits and certification.

(3) A list of the organization’s exclusive auditors qualified to complete safety management audits and their operational area; and

(4) A written statement that the procedures and records of the recognized organization regarding its actions involving safety management system audits and certification are available for review annually and at any time deemed necessary by the Coast Guard.

(b) If the organization is a foreign classification society that has been recognized under 46 CFR part 8, subparts A and B, and wishes to apply for

authorization under this part, it must demonstrate the reciprocity required by 46 U.S.C. 3316 for ISM Code certification. The organization must provide, with its request for authorization an affidavit from the government of the country in which the classification society is headquartered. This affidavit must provide a list of authorized delegations by the flag state of the administration of the foreign classification society’s country to the American Bureau of Shipping, and indicate any conditions related to the delegated authority. If this affidavit is not received with a request for authorization from a foreign classification society, the request for authorization will be disapproved and returned by the Coast Guard.

(c) Upon the satisfactory completion of the Coast Guard’s evaluation of a request for authorization, the organization will be visited for an evaluation as described in § 96.440(b) of this part.

**§ 96.440 How will the Coast Guard decide whether to approve an organization’s request to be authorized?**

(a) First, the Coast Guard will evaluate the organization’s request for authorization and supporting written materials, looking for evidence of the following—

- (1) The organization’s clear assignment of management duties;
- (2) Ethical standards for managers and auditors;
- (3) Procedures for auditor training, qualification, certification, and re-qualification that are consistent with recognized industry standards;
- (4) Procedures for auditing safety management systems that are consistent with recognized industry standards and IMO Resolution A.788(19);
- (5) Acceptable standards for internal auditing and management review;
- (6) Record-keeping standards for safety management auditing and certification;
- (7) Methods for reporting non-conformities and recording completion of remedial actions;
- (8) Methods for certifying safety management systems;
- (9) Methods for periodic and intermediate audits of safety management systems;

(10) Methods for renewal audits of safety management systems;

(11) Methods for handling appeals; and

(12) Overall procedures consistent with IMO Resolution A.739(18), "Guidelines for the Authorization of Organizations Acting on Behalf of the Administration."

(b) After a favorable evaluation of the organization's written request, the Coast Guard will arrange to visit the organization's corporate offices and port offices for an on-site evaluation of operations.

(c) When a request is approved, the recognized organization and the Coast Guard will enter into a written agreement. This agreement will define the scope, terms, conditions and requirements of the authorization. Conditions of this agreement are found in § 96.460 of this part.

**§ 96.450 What happens if the Coast Guard disapproves an organization's request to be authorized?**

(a) The Coast Guard will write to the organization explaining why it did not meet the criteria for authorization.

(b) The organization may then correct the deficiencies and reapply.

**§ 96.460 How will I know what the Coast Guard requires of my organization if my organization receives authorization?**

(a) Your organization will enter into a written agreement with the Coast Guard. This written agreement will specify—

(1) How long the authorization is valid;

(2) Which duties and responsibilities the organization may perform, and which certificates it may issue on behalf of the U.S.;

(3) Reports and information the organization must send to the Commandant (CG-543);

(4) Actions the organization must take to renew the agreement when it expires; and

(5) Actions the organization must take if the Coast Guard should revoke its authorization or recognition under 46 CFR part 8.

(b) [Reserved]

**§ 96.470 How does the Coast Guard terminate an organization's authorization?**

At least every 12 months, the Coast Guard evaluates organizations authorized under this subpart. If an organization fails to maintain acceptable standards, the Coast Guard may terminate that organization's authorization, remove the organization from the Commandant's list of recognized organizations, and further evaluate the organization's recognition under 46 CFR part 8.

**§ 96.480 What is the status of a certificate if the issuing organization has its authority terminated?**

Any certificate issued by an organization authorized by the Coast Guard whose authorization is later terminated remains valid until—

(a) Its original expiration date,

(b) The date of the next periodic audit required to maintain the certificate's validity, or

(c) Whichever of paragraphs (a) or (b) occurs first.

**§ 96.490 What further obligations exist for an organization if the Coast Guard terminates its authorization?**

The written agreement by which an organization receives authorization from the Coast Guard places it under certain obligations if the Coast Guard revokes that authorization. The organization agrees to send written notice of its termination to all responsible persons, companies and vessels that have received certificates from the organization. In that notice, the organization must include—

(a) A written statement explaining why the organization's authorization was terminated by the Coast Guard;

(b) An explanation of the status of issued certificates;

(c) A current list of organizations authorized by the Coast Guard to conduct safety management audits; and

(d) A statement of what the companies and vessels must do to have their safety management systems transferred to another organization authorized to act on behalf of the U.S.