

USCG Licensing in SD

The following information is intended to provide you with a general overview of United States Coast Guard (USCG) licensing requirements for individuals doing business on waters of the Missouri River system in South Dakota and options for meeting those requirements. For official information and interpretation; you should contact the United States Coast Guard (USCG) directly. You can contact the USCG National Maritime Center by calling 1-888-427-5662 or through their website at www.uscg.mil/nmc.

Background

- The Missouri River system in South Dakota is considered navigable waters and under United States Coast Guard (USCG) jurisdiction.
- According to Federal regulations, anyone conducting business on these waters and transporting up to six passengers is required to have an Operator of Un-inspected Passenger Vehicle (OUPV) Inland or “six-pack” credential.
- These regulations are enforced specifically by the US Coast Guard.
- A Restricted OUPV credential, good only for the waters of the Missouri River in North and South Dakota, is also available.
- A Transportation Worker Identification Credential or “TWIC” is a prerequisite to obtaining an OUPV Inland or a Restricted OUPV for the Missouri River system in South and North Dakota.
- OUPV credentials can be obtained by meeting USCG requirements listed below and then passing an USCG exam **OR** successfully completing an USCG approved course.
- Courses are taught by Captain’s Schools, not the USCG or its employees. Instructors at Captain’s Schools and the courses they teach must be certified by the USCG.
- Credentials are renewed every 5 years. There is not an annual license fee but a series of fees associated with meeting the requirements for the 5-year renewal.

United States Coast Guard Licensing Requirements

OUPV Inland Credential (six-pack)

- 360 days underway experience with 90 of those days in the last 3 years
- Physical, drug test and eye exam
- Valid CPR/First Aid card
- Completion of the USCG OUPV Inland exam **OR** completion of a USCG approved course (full course is typically 56-hours long over 7 days)
- Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card required

Restricted OUPV Credential

- 360 days underway experience with 90 of those days in the last 3 years

- Physical, drug test and eye exam
 - Valid CPR/First Aid card
 - Completion of the Restricted USCG exam **OR** completion of a USCG approved course (generally a 2-3 day course, as a smaller amount of material is covered)
 - Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card required
- Both the OUPV Inland and Restricted OUPV credential (formerly titled License) must be renewed every five (5) years. Renewal does not necessarily involve a Renewal Exam. If a mariner documents a minimum of 360 days underway during the five year period, no Renewal Exam is necessary. In the event a person cannot document the minimum service an open book renewal exam is available by mail.

Obtaining a TWIC

The closest locations to apply for a TWIC are St. Paul/Minneapolis or Cedar Rapids, IA. Two trips to the TWIC center are required – an application and an issuance trip. TWICs must be renewed every five years.

Obtaining USCG OUPV Credentials

You must either successfully complete an approved course given by a Captain's School **OR** pass the USCG exam.

Captain's Schools

- A number of Captain's Schools teach a course for obtaining an OUPV Inland credential. You can check the Coast Guard Mariner Credentialing Website: www.uscg.mil/nmc or call the Customer Service Desk toll free: 1-888-427-5662 to inquire about approved courses.
- There are currently no Captain's schools certified to teach a Restricted OUPV course for the Missouri River in ND and SD. However, approved courses are continually being added to the website.
- Schools need to apply to the National Maritime Center (NMC) and the Officer in Charge of Maritime Inspection (OCMI) to get their course for a Restricted OUPV for the Missouri R. in ND and SD certified. It would then be added to the USCG licensing web page.
- Captain's Schools may be willing to travel to South Dakota to teach a course if enough people are interested to justify their time and expenses. Also, they can offer an on-line class and then simply come to South Dakota to administer the final exam for the course.

USCG OUPV and Restricted OUPV Exams

- It costs \$95 to take the USCG exam at a Regional Examination Center (REC). At the present time, St. Louis, MO is the closet REC for South Dakota. Other fees are associated with meeting the other requirements for the OUPV credential, including fees for physical exams and the TWIC.
- A complete packet of application materials for the OUPV Inland/Restricted OUPV credential is available by calling the USCG National Maritime Center at 1-888-427-5662.
- Restricted OUPV Exams will include (CG-543 Policy Letter 10-03):
 - Rules of the Road (Inland rules only, minimum 30 questions, 80% passing grade)
 - Navigation General (minimum 10 questions, 70% passing grade)
 - Deck General / Safety & Environmental Protection (minimum 40 questions, 70% passing grade)
 - State Regulations or local knowledge

Charting is not a component of the Restricted OUPV exam but is a component of the OUPV Inland exam.

- If you take the OUPV Inland or Restricted OUPV exam from the USCG, the Code of Federal Regulations is in the exam room. No other aids are allowed in the exam room.
- People can study for the exam on their own and take the test. Study guides are available for purchase from bookstores on-line. While much less expensive, this is a more difficult means of getting a license (assuming you pass the test) than taking an approved course.
- Study Guides include:
 - Book – “Get Your Captain’s License”
 - Book – “Navigation Rules – International and Inland”
 - Book – “The Coast Guard License/Six Pac to Master.”
- If there are 10 or more people interested in sitting for the test, the USCG will send a traveling examination team (TET) to SD to administer the test. Expenses for the TET are the responsibility of those taking the test.

Approximate Costs of Licensing Requirements

Values taken from 16721 CG-543 Policy Letter No. 10-03:

Requirement	OUPV Inland	Restricted OUPV
TWIC	\$132.50	\$132.50
USCG Application/Issuance Fees	\$145.00	\$145.00
CPR & First Aid Training	\$60.00	\$60.00
Physical Examination	\$100.00	\$100.00
Drug Test	\$49.00	\$49.00
USCG Examination Fee	\$95.00	\$95.00
USCG Approved OUPV Course*	\$750.00	\$500.00
Total with USCG Exam (for original)	\$581.50	\$581.50
Total with Approved OUPV Course (for original)	\$1,236.50	\$986.50
Total (for renewal)	\$426.50	\$426.50

*Fees for courses will vary with course provider.