

NAVITA FIELD TALKING POINTS

Purpose

Provide simple, consistent messaging for Coast Guard personnel to engage port partners, mariners and other stakeholders ahead of Navita™ rollout.

Core Talking Points

What is Navita™?

Navita™ is the Coast Guard's new digital mariner credentialing platform designed to modernize and improve how mariners interact with the Mariner Credentialing Program.

Why is the Coast Guard making this change?

The U.S. merchant marine is essential to the operation of the U.S. Marine Transportation System affecting our economic prosperity, and our national security.

The current credentialing process involves significant paperwork, manual processing, and back-and-forth communication. Navita™ is being developed to improve efficiency, reduce administrative burden, and create a more user-friendly experience for mariners.

What does this mean for mariners?

Navita™ will simplify mariner credentialing by improving the application submission and evaluation process, reducing common errors, and creating a more modern digital experience.

Mariners will create a Navita™ account and submit applications, supporting documents, and additional information electronically. The system will improve access, reduce paper-based processes, increase transparency, and streamline communication. Once fully implemented, paper applications will no longer be accepted.

Is there any impact to current NMC/REC services?

Navita™ will enhance - not replace - existing support services. Navita™ will modernize how mariners interact with the Coast Guard's credentialing program by providing a secure, digital application experience. The NMC [Customer Service Center](#) will continue assisting mariners, and RECs will continue providing examinations and other required in-person services.

Why is this important?

Reducing credentialing delays helps support mariners, strengthens the maritime workforce, and contributes to the safe and efficient movement of commerce throughout the Marine Transportation System.

Is Navita™ part of a larger effort?

Yes. Navita™ represents the first major step in a broader Coast Guard transformation and digital modernization effort focused on improving user experience and modernizing Coast Guard services.

When will mariners hear more?

The Coast Guard will provide regular updates, awareness products, and stakeholder engagement opportunities leading up to the launch of Navita™. More information is available on the National Maritime Center website.

When will Navita™ be available?

The Coast Guard is currently conducting user testing and working closely with stakeholders to better understand mariner needs and identify opportunities to improve the user experience. Early testing and feedback are shaping the platform ahead of its initial rollout planned for September 2026. System updates will be released periodically. Ultimately, Navita™ will create a more efficient, transparent, responsive, and user-friendly experience for mariners.

What is the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Program?

The Coast Guard is the lead federal agency responsible for credentialing U.S. mariners, protecting our nation's Marine Transportation System, and regulating maritime shipping.

The Mariner Credentialing Program not only issues Merchant Mariner Credentials and medical certificates to qualified mariners, but also approves commercial maritime training providers and required credentialing courses and programs. The Mariner Credentialing Program also conducts oversight of approved training providers such as the state and federal Maritime Academies.

Why are mariners and the Marine Transportation System (MTS) important to the nation's economy and security?

America's system of ports and waterways accounts for over \$5.4 trillion of our Nation's annual economic activity (25% of GDP) and supports 30.8 million American jobs. Our ports serve as a gateway for 90% of all overseas trade.

Credentialed Mariners are essential to the operation of the Marine Transportation System our economic prosperity, and our national security.

There are approximately 200,000 U.S. merchant mariners operating all types of vessels from large oceangoing cargo ships engaged in foreign commerce, offshore supply vessels supporting energy production and development, tugs and barges transporting grains, oil, and other products on the inland waterways, to passenger vessels including large cruise ships and local dinner boats.

“The United States needs a sufficiently large, ready, and willing mariner workforce to crew U.S.-flagged vessels in support of national defense and economic growth”

- [America's Maritime Action Plan](#)