

**BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE BAYS OF SAN FRANCISCO, SAN PABLO, AND SUISUN**

**HOW TO BECOME A PILOT TRAINEE - COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS
2019**

Q: What Coast Guard license do I need?

A: A current, valid federal license, with an unlimited radar endorsement, either as master of vessels of not more than 1600 gross tons or as master of vessels of any gross tons.

Q: If I am a pilot in another port, does that count towards meeting the command experience requirement?

A: Piloting experience cannot be used to meet the minimum eligibility requirement of one year in command of a self-propelled vessel in navigation of not less than 1600 gross tons or the two years' command requirement of either (1) a towing vessel of not less than 99 gross tons engaged in ship assist or in bay or ocean towing, or (2) a towing vessel of less than 99 gross tons in which the combined gross tonnage of the towing vessel and the vessel(s) towed is not less than 1600 gross tons while holding a current, valid federal license as master of vessels of not more than 1600 gross tons. However, piloting experience that meets the requirements of California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 213(e)(4)(C) may be used to fulfill the recency requirement and may also count towards experience points. (Detailed minimum eligibility and experience point scoring requirements are in CCR Sections 213(e) and (f).)

Q: I have sailed as a master on ships for a number of years but came ashore two years ago to take the position of a ship's superintendent, a position I have held continuously since that time. As a ship superintendent, I am responsible for the operation of my company's ships. Does the time as ship superintendent qualify for meeting your recency requirements?

A: There is no provision in the Training Program regulations to allow for shore side experience in lieu of sea time. An applicant must meet the recency requirements of CCR Section 213(e)(4) both at the time of applying to take a Pilot Trainee Training Program Selection Examination and upon entering the training program.

Q: Do I need to have my pilotage endorsements for San Francisco Bay prior to application?

A: No. Having local pilotage endorsements will permit you to begin handling ships earlier in the Pilot Trainee Training Program if admitted, but, these endorsements are not a prerequisite for entry into the program.

Q: Can you recommend any reading materials to help me prepare for the written examination?

A: Yes. A list of textbooks used to prepare the written examination can be found in the Pilot Trainee Training Program Selection Examination Handbook posted on the Board's website.

Q: I have a physical condition that is well-controlled with medication. Do I need to take a medical examination before I apply or take the written examination?

A: You do not have to pass a medical examination in order to take the Pilot Trainee Training Program Selection Examination written examination or the simulator examination exercise components. However, you do have to pass a medical assessment performed by a Board-appointed physician prior to entering the training program. If you have any doubt whether you can pass a medical assessment performed by a Board-appointed physician, it would be in your interest to have a physical examination by a physician who is familiar with the U.S. Coast Guard standards before you invest in the time and effort needed to compete successfully for entrance into the training program.