

**Study Focus Guidelines for the
Deputy Marine Pilot/Apprentice Marine Pilot Trainee Examination
Required By 12 AAC 56.070(b)(1-5) – Core Exam**

This guide is intended to provide some basic study focus for candidates preparing to take the Deputy Marine Pilot/Apprentice Marine Pilot core examination. It is intended to assist the candidate to focus their study efforts. The applicant must pass the core examination with a 75% or better

Materials: Plan to bring your own standard plotting gear (i.e. dividers, parallel rule or rolling plotter, etc.). A non-programmable calculator for basic math (i.e. time, distance, speed relationships, etc.) is also allowed. White paper and pencils will be provided.

Pursuant to 12 AAC 56.070, the core examination is:

- (1) International Rules of the Road. The examination questions come straight from the USCG Merchant Mariners License Exams database. The best guidance for this portion is to review the 72 COLREGS and practice questions in the USCG database.
- (2) A compilation of seamanship, pilot responsibilities, pilot safety, rules and regulations.

A. Seamanship. Includes shiphandling underway, docking and undocking, use of tugs and anchors and emergency procedures. Recommended references for study include: Shiphandling for the Mariner, MacElrevey; Behavior and Handling of Ships, Hooyer; The Art of Ship and Boat Handling, Moss; and Naval Shiphandling, Crenshaw. The candidate should ensure an understanding of such concepts as forces that affect a ship (e.g. rudder, propeller, wind, current), shallow water effects (e.g. squat, bank suction and cushion), anchoring (normal procedures, emergency procedures and dredging anchor), emergency maneuvers (e.g. crash stop, hard turn, use of rudder to stop), pivot point, use of tugs (for docking and undocking), and generally accepted “rules of thumb” for shiphandling (e.g. wind v. current, time/speed/distance). The intent is to ensure the candidate has a working understanding of the general shiphandling fundamentals of speed, power, and use of rudders, anchors and tugs, etc.

B. Pilot Responsibilities. Includes duties of a pilot, master-pilot relationship, practical operation of marine RADAR and engine order and rudder commands for US merchant vessels, US Naval vessels, and foreign merchant vessels. Recommended references include The Law of Tug, Tow and Pilotage, Parks & Cattell, Jr.; (Chapter 11 – Pilotage), Shiphandling for the Mariner, MacElrevey (Chapter 11 – Master/Pilot Relationship), Naval Shiphandling, Crenshaw; AS 08.62 and 12 AAC 56 as they relate to the duties and responsibilities of pilots; and IMO Standard Communications Phrases A2. The candidate should have a thorough knowledge of 12 AAC 56.960

Duties of Pilots. Specific court cases, history of pilotage, extensive legal terms, and Pilot association issues are not tested.

C. Pilot Safety. Recommended references include the US Coast Pilot (specifically the general provisions of Chapters 1 & 2), The USCG Light List, Chart 1; Nautical Chart Symbols and Abbreviations and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Safety Committee (MSC) Chapter V; Safety of Navigation as it relates to electronic chart use. The candidate should know what is required of a licensed Merchant Mariner with respect to fixing a vessel position, observation and use of aids to navigation, and reporting aids to navigation discrepancies; use of charts including symbols (e.g. aids to navigation, rocks), datum (e.g. height of objects, depth of water); and a general understanding of the primary differences between electronic chart formats and limitations of electronic charts.

D. Rules and Regulations. Includes all federal and state statutes and regulations affecting the piloting of compulsory of vessels in compulsory pilotage waters of Alaska. Recommended references are AS 08.62, Marine Pilot Statutes, 12 AAC 56 Marine Pilot Regulations, US Coast Pilot Chapters 1 & 2, and 18 AAC 75, Oil and Other Hazardous Substances Pollution Control (Parts 75.007, 75.027, 75.300 & 75.620). The candidate should know such things as: what vessels are subject to compulsory state pilotage, penalties for failure to employ a pilot, limitations of pilot liability, pilot monitoring, drugs and alcohol provisions, use of pilot stations, and availability of pilots. Significant emphasis is placed on the requirements of trainees and training pilots. The candidate will not be tested on such topics as Centralized Licensing Statutes (AS 08.01-03), Occupational Licensing Regulations and Fees (12 AAC 02), Creation and Membership of the Board of Marine Pilots, etc.

It is impractical to provide the candidate with each specific, individual item to study; however, candidates that earnestly pursue the references identified above and material contained therein; combining that with the expected level of knowledge and experiences of a professional mariner that a trainee represents, should be well prepared for this examination.