



Becoming qualified in the Auxiliary Telecommunications Program Telecommunications Operator (TCO)

To become involved in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Telecommunications program, applicants must become certified as Telecommunications Operators (TCO). All operators of fixed land and land mobile radios must be certified as TCO, except for those members who completed AUXCOM prior to 1 August 2008. The exception is rumored to be short lived at this time, so it is best to update yourself to the current TCO program. The first step a person interested in the Telecommunication Program should take is to get in contact with a member of the Telecommunication Staff in their Flotilla or Division. The Telecommunication Staff member will make sure that the member has the correct information on how to proceed through the qualification process.

The specific requirements surrounding the Telecommunications Program are detailed in Auxiliary Operations Process Guide – Volume III - Telecommunications and in the Auxiliary Telecommunications Qualification Standard (PQS). In general, the qualification process involves study of the appropriate manuals, demonstrating understanding of them and demonstrating the ability to perform various tasks.

In general, here are the initial steps to be followed in becoming involved in the Auxiliary Telecommunications Program.

- **Join** USCG Auxiliary
 - Complete the Personnel Security Investigations (PSI)
- Become Basically Qualified (BQ'ed)
- Complete ICS 100 & 700 courses –
 - The courses can be found on-line at the following links:
 - [IS 100 course](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp) - <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp>
 - [IS 200 course](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS200b.asp) - <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS200b.asp>
- **Contact** your FC or a member of the Telecommunications Staff about your interest in the Auxiliary Telecommunications program. Seek guidance from the FSO-CM about the Telecommunications (TCO) program and selection of mentor.
- **Download** from the www.cgaux.org manuals web site [Auxiliary Manuals \(uscgaux.info\)](http://www.cgaux.org) the Auxiliary Manual. This is the manual that provides general guidance for all Auxiliarists.
- **From the [Guides and Handbooks \(uscgaux.info\)](http://www.uscgaux.info) page, download the [Auxiliary Operations Process Guide – Volume III – Telecommunications](http://www.uscgaux.info).**
 - This provides operations policy guidance for all CG AUX for communications. Familiarize yourself with the other Operations guides as a plus.

- **Auxiliary Telecommunications Qualification Standard TCO PQS**
 - [BACKGROUND FOR COMMS QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE \(uscgaux.info\)](https://uscgaux.info)
 - This training guide contains all the required training and Personal Qualification Standards (PQS) items which must be demonstrated in order to become qualified.
- **Study** the training materials.
- **Begin** Training activities as directed by the CM staff to learn skills necessary to demonstrate competency. Work with your TCO mentor to complete the tasks required for TCO certification.
- Once completed, it is often required to attend the annual Telecommunications refresher.

Once a member applicant completes the TCO PQS, it is reviewed and approved by a communications staff officer (CM) or a TCO certified member. The CM signed-off TCO PQS is submitted to DIRAUX for certification and entry into AUXDATA as a Telecommunications Operator (TCO).

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining us in the Telecommunications Program, please feel free to contact any member of the Telecommunications staff at any time.