

AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-015

LINE HANDLING COMMANDS



QUESTION:

“Why doesn’t the USCG Auxiliary have standard line handling commands so we all know and use the same terminology?”

AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

There is standard terminology for line handling commands; however most of the commands are for larger vessels. The attached is designed to be used for USCG Auxiliary non-standard vessels considered to be small to medium size vessels.

The goal is for the boat crew to communicate effectively so everyone understands the terminology for the task.

*Warren D. Edman
AQEC/SNC
11/01/2014*

From Quotations with Character by W. David Edman

“Teaching mariners about risk assessment is to explain their actions may affect their life expectancy.”

STANDARD LINE HANDLING COMMANDS FOR SMALL BOATS

| COMMAND | ACTION |
|------------------------------|---|
| Hold (Line number) | Do not let out any additional line even if the risk of parting exists. |
| Check (Line number) | Hold tension on specified line, but render it as necessary to prevent parting. |
| Put Over/Pass (Line number) | Send over any line or towline (or with heaving line attached). |
| Ease (Line number) | Let out line until it is under less tension, but not slacked. |
| Make (Line number) | Depending on size of the cleat, place a round turn plus at least one figure eight on a bit (cleat) to hold the line in place. |
| Slack (Line number) | Allow line to go out without any tension on the line. |
| Take Slack Out (Line number) | Take all slack out of a line, but do not take a strain. |
| Pay Out (Line number) | Pay out amount (feet) of line stated by the Coxswain. |
| Working Turn (Line number) | Amount of turns on the bit (cleat) with line necessary to hold, but able to let out slack when needed. |
| Take in (Line number) | Allow line-handler enough slack to take the line off a fitting (bitt/cleat) and bring the line aboard. |
| Cast Off (Line number) | Cast off the line(s) when you leave the line on the pier or when using another vessel's line(s). |

USCGA/SNC

From Quotations with Character by W. David Edman

“Teaching mariners about risk assessment is to explain their actions may affect their life expectancy.”