
UNCLAS

R 061640Z DEC 13
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-5PC//
TO AIG 4906
AIG 4914
COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA//LANT-54/LANT-35//
COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA//PAC-54/PAC-33//
INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-CVC/CG-MLE/TMII//
COMCOGARD FORCECOM NORFOLK VA
COGARD TRACEN YORKTOWN VA
COMCOGARD MLE ACADEMY CHARLESTON SC
COGARD PRFTC ALAMEDA CA
BT
UNCLAS //N16710//
SUBJ: ENGINEER OFFICER ENDORSEMENTS ON UNINSPECTED COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS

A. CG-543 Policy Letter No. 11-11 dated OCT 07, 2011

1. Purpose. Ref (A) Provided guidance and clarification regarding the licensing requirements for engineers on Uninspected Commercial Fishing Vessels. It also established January 1, 2014 as the date after which full compliance with the licensing regulations should be enforced. Due to extenuating circumstances within the industry, it is not reasonable to begin strict enforcement of all the licensing requirements applicable on commercial fishing vessels as set forth in 46 CFR, Subchapter B. Therefore, this message extends the date to implement enforcement of the requirements for appropriately-endorsed engineering officers on uninspected commercial fishing vessels from January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015.

2. Background. Ref (A) was issued to provide guidance and clarification on engineer officer endorsement requirements for those serving on commercial fishing vessels after industry petitioned the coast guard for relief from strict enforcement because of a shortage of readily available licensed engineers. To be in compliance with regulations, more than one licensed engineer may need to be employed on a vessel if watch requirements have been established by the vessel owner/operator, or the Coast Guard has determined there is a watch requirement based on the vessel's SOP. Ref (A) was also issued for OCMI's to allow industry time to identify and hire licensed mariners as needed or for experienced crew members to complete requirements to obtain a license so that vessel operations would not be unduly disrupted.

3. Discussion: The challenge for the industry to comply with the engineer officer requirements still exists. Delaying the strict enforcement of the requirements for engineering officers on commercial fishing vessels as set forth in para (1.), will allow additional time for industry to identify and hire necessary engineers. It will also provide CG-CVC time to revise Ref (A), propose new requirements, and/or consider other options or alternatives for industry to fill required positions, as may apply. CVC-3 and CVC-4 are evaluating the possible use of a restricted or limited license applicable to commercial fishing vessels only. Additional outreach to industry will be conducted to solicit recommendations on developing engineers for the fleet. Information on engineer manning levels and watches for commercial fishing vessels will also be sought. OCMI's are encouraged to provide CG-CVC with data and recommendations on required engineering officer endorsements and manning on uninspected commercial fishing vessels.

4. Questions may be directed to Mr. Jack Kemerer, 202-372-1249, or Jack.A.Kemerer(at)uscg.mil.

5. CAPT Jonathan C. Burton, Director of Inspections and Compliance, sends.

6. Internet release is authorized.

UNCLAS

UNCLAS

BT
NNNN

UNCLAS