

§ 28.60

distance of 10 feet (3 meters) for five minutes.

Weather deck means the uppermost deck exposed to the weather to which a weathertight sideshell extends.

Weathertight means that water will not penetrate into the unit in any sea condition.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991, as amended by CGD 94-025, 60 FR 54444, Oct. 24, 1995; CGD 96-041, 61 FR 50726, Sept. 27, 1996; CGD 96-046, 61 FR 57272, Nov. 5, 1996; USCG-2001-9044, 68 FR 42602, July 18, 2003; USCG-2004-18884, 69 FR 58344, Sept. 30, 2004; USCG-2006-25556, 72 FR 36330, July 2, 2007; USCG-2008-0906, 73 FR 56508, Sept. 29, 2008]

§ 28.60 Exemption letter.

(a) *Types of exemptions.* (1) *Specific exemption* means an exemption for an individual commercial fishing industry vessel.

(2) *Class exemption* means an exemption for a class or fleet of commercial fishing industry vessels.

(b) *Exemption procedure.* A request for an exemption of either type must be in writing, have specific reasons for the request, and be sent to the Coast Guard District Office having jurisdiction over the waters where the vessel(s) will be operating. Coast Guard District geographical areas are described in 33 CFR part 3. The District Commander will review the request to determine that:

(1) Good cause exists for granting an exemption; and

(2) The safety of the vessel and those on board will not be adversely affected.

(c) The District Commander will either approve or deny the request in writing. In granting a request, the District Commander will specify the terms under which the exemption is granted and distribute the letter describing these terms to the party or parties requesting the exemption.

(d) *Exemption letter.* Exemption letters, or suitable copies, describing the terms under which the exemption is granted shall be maintained at all times on board each vessel to which any exemption applies.

(e) *Right of appeal.* Any person directly affected by a decision or action taken under this part may appeal in accordance with § 1.03 of this chapter.

(f) *Rescinding an exemption letter.* Exemptions granted may be rescinded by the District Commander if it is subse-

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quently determined that the safety of the vessel and those onboard is adversely affected.

[CDG 96-046, 62 FR 46675, Sept. 4, 1997]

§ 28.65 Termination of unsafe operations.

(a) A Coast Guard Boarding Officer may direct the master or individual in charge of a vessel, with the concurrence of the District Commander, or staff authorized by the District Commander, to immediately take reasonable steps necessary for the safety of individuals on board the vessel if the Boarding Officer observes the vessel being operated in an unsafe manner and determines that an especially hazardous condition exists. This may include directing the master or individual in charge of the vessel to return the vessel to a mooring and remain there until the situation creating the especially hazardous condition is corrected or other specific action is taken.

(b) Hazardous conditions include, but are not limited to, operation with—

(1) An insufficient number of life-saving equipment on board, to include serviceable Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs), serviceable immersion suits, or adequate survival craft capacity.

(2) An inoperable Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or radio communication equipment when required by regulation. There should be at least one operable means of communicating distress. When both are required, then at least one must be in operable condition to avoid termination of the voyage;

(3) Inadequate firefighting equipment on board;

(4) Excessive volatile fuel (gasoline or solvents) or volatile fuel vapors in bilges;

(5) Instability resulting from overloading, improper loading or lack of freeboard;

(6) Inoperable bilge system;

(7) Intoxication of the master or individual in charge of a commercial fishing vessel. An individual is intoxicated when he/she is operating a commercial fishing vessel and has an alcohol concentration of .04 percent, or the intoxicant's effect on the person's manner,

disposition, speech, muscular movement, general appearance or behavior is apparent by observation;

(8) A lack of adequate operable navigation lights during periods of reduced visibility;

(9) Watertight closures missing or inoperable;

(10) Flooding or uncontrolled leakage in any space; or

(11) A missing or expired certificate of class, as required by 46 U.S.C. 4503(1), for a fish processing vessel.

(c) A Coast Guard Boarding Officer may direct the individual in charge of a fish processing vessel that is missing a Load Line Certificate, or that does not comply with the provisions of the Load Line Certificate issued by the American Bureau of Shipping or a similarly qualified organization, to return the vessel to a mooring and to remain there until the vessel obtains such a certificate.

[CGD 96-046, 61 FR 57273, Nov. 5, 1996, as amended at CGD 96-046, 62 FR 46676, Sept. 4, 1997; USCG-2004-18884, 69 FR 58344, Sept. 30, 2004]

§ 28.70 Approved equipment and material.

(a) Equipment and material that is required by this subchapter to be approved or of an approved type, must have been manufactured and approved in accordance with the design and testing requirements in Subchapter Q of this chapter or as otherwise specified by the Commandant.

(b) A listing of current and formerly approved equipment and materials may be found on the internet at: <http://cgmix.uscg.mil/equipment>. Each OCFI may be contacted for information concerning approved equipment.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991, as amended by USCG-2004-18884, 69 FR 58344, Sept. 30, 2004]

§ 28.73 Accepted organizations.

An organization desiring to be designated by the Commandant as an accepted organization must request such designation in writing. As a minimum the organization must verify that it is an organization—

(a) With a Code of Ethics;

(b) Whose surveyors are familiar with the requirements of this chapter re-

lated to commercial fishing industry vessels;

(c) Whose surveyors are familiar with the operations and equipment on board commercial fishing industry vessels;

(d) Whose only interest in the fishing industry is in ensuring the safety of commercial fishing industry vessels and surveying commercial fishing industry vessels;

(e) That has grievance procedures;

(f) That has procedures for accepting and terminating membership of an individual, including minimum professional qualifications for surveyors;

(g) That maintains a roster of present and past accepted members and surveyors; and

(h) That has an Apprentice/Associate program for surveyors.

§ 28.76 Similarly qualified organizations.

An organization desiring to be designated by the Commandant as a similarly qualified organization must request such designation in writing. As a minimum the organization must verify that it—

(a) Publishes standards for vessel design and construction which are as widely available as and which are of similar content to the standards published by the ABS;

(b) Performs periodic surveys in a wide range of localities during and after construction to ensure compliance with published standards, including drydock examinations, in a manner similar to the ABS;

(c) Issues certificates testifying to compliance with the published standards;

(d) Has as its primary concern the survey and classification of vessels;

(e) Has no interest in owning or operating fishing, fish processing, or fish tender vessels; and

(f) Maintains records of surveys and makes such records available to the Coast Guard upon request in a manner similar to the ABS.

§ 28.80 Report of casualty.

(a) Except for a casualty which is required to be reported to the Coast Guard on Form CG 2692 in accordance with part 4 of this chapter, the owner, agent, operator, master, or individual