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R 101915Z DEC 14
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-CVC//
TO AIG 4906
AIG 4914
COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA//LANT-54/LANT-35//
COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA//PAC-54/PAC-35LE/PAC-3//
INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-MLE//
COMCOGARD FORCECOM NORFOLK VA
COGARD NATMARCEN MARTINSBURG WV
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COMCOGARD MLE ACADEMY CHARLESTON SC
COGARD REGFISHTRACEN GULF NEW ORLEANS LA
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COGARD REGFISHTRACEN SE CHARLESTON SC
COGARD PRFTC ALAMEDA CA
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SUBJ: ENGINEER OFFICER ENDORSEMENTS ON UNINSPECTED COMMERCIAL FISHING
VESSELS - EXTENSION OF ENFORCEMENT DATE
A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC MSG R061640Z DEC 13
B. CG-543 Policy Letter No. 11-11 dated OCT 7, 2011
C. 46 CFR 11.530
1. Purpose. Ref (a) extended the original date to more strictly enforce the requirements for appropriately-endorsed engineer officers on uninspected commercial fishing vessels, established in ref (b), from January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015. Since the issuance of ref (a) it has been communicated to the Coast Guard by some commercial fishing industry groups that further extension of the enforcement period is still essential due to the continued shortage of credentialed engineers and the need to train new engineers for their fleets. Therefore, this message extends the date to implement enforcement from January 1, 2015 to October 15, 2015.
2. Background. Ref (a) was issued to allow industry additional time to identify and hire credentialed mariners as needed, or for experienced crew members to complete requirements to obtain an engineer officer endorsement, so that vessel operations would not be unduly disrupted. Ref (b), a precursor to reference (a), established the foundation document that 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 of the requirements for appropriately-endorsed engineer officers on their commercial fishing vessels, due to a shortage of readily available, credentialed engineers.
3. Discussion. Based on feedback received in response to reference (a), this message further extends the date to enforce the requirements for having appropriately-endorsed engineer officers on uninspected commercial fishing vessels until October 15, 2015, which will also coincide with the requirement for mandatory dockside safety examinations. Additionally, where an owner, operator, or company has established a training program designed to bring company operations into compliance with the regulations, but envision not being able to meet the October 15, 2015 deadline, the OCMI may defer, on a case by case basis, strict enforcement of the provisions of the regulations beyond October 15, 2015. Those parties that wish to be considered for this deferment must submit a proposed compliance plan to the cognizant OCMI and have it accepted no later than October 15, 2015. Again, this option is only for parties with an established training program and additional guidance on these proposed compliance plans will be included in a change to ref (b), which will be issued in the

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near future. In the meantime OCMI's should continue to encourage owners and operators to hire mariners that already hold engineer officer credentials and to utilize the longstanding, trade restricted endorsements for engineers of uninspected fishing industry vessels (Chief and Assistant), in accordance with reference (c), that are already available.

4. Questions may be directed to Mr. Jack Kemerer (CVC-3), 202-372-1249, or Jack.A.Kemerer(at)uscg.mil and to Mr. Luke Harden (CVC-4), 202-372-2357, or mmcpolicy(at)uscg.mil.

5. CAPT Kyle P. McAvoy, Chief Commercial Vessel Compliance, sends.

6. Internet release is authorized.

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