



MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

These bulletins are purely informational for the maritime community within this Captain of the Port zone. They advise you of emerging information & situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System. As important, they help to manage expectations & facilitate cooperation regarding actions that we may be taking and/or that you may need to employ in the interest of safety/security. Increased vigilance in our maritime world hinges significantly upon proactive engagement & information sharing with the private sector, which has the primary responsibility for security & safety at their waterfront facilities & vessels.

BULLETIN NO: 001-14

Date: November 4, 2013

SUBJECT: VESSEL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT

1. In a recent Coast Guard Station vessel boarding conducted on an un-inspected passenger vessel it was discovered the vessel did not have the proper Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation onboard as required by 46 CFR 67.7. The vessel was state registered; however given the vessel operations and that the vessel size of over 5 net tons, it was required to be documented with the U.S. Coast Guard as per the above mention regulation.
2. Vessels that are required to carry a Certificate of Documentation include:
 - a. All commercial vessels of at least 5 net tons engaged in the fisheries on the navigable waters of the United States or in the Exclusive Economic Zone are required to be documented with the Coast Guard and issued a Certificate of Documentation with a fisheries endorsement.
 - b. All commercial vessels of at least 5 net tons engaged in the coastwise trade are required to be documented with the Coast Guard and issued a Certificate of Documentation with a coastwise endorsement.
3. Coastwise trade includes the transportation of passengers or merchandise between points within the United States.
4. Vessel documentation regulations can be found in 46 CFR 67. Vessels found without the proper vessel documentation may be subject to penalties up to \$32,500.
5. Vessel owners can contact the Coast Guard Vessel Documentation Center at (800) 799-8362 phone hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST time or visited their web site at <http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/> for more information.

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