



16710/Depth Sounders
D8(dp) Policy Ltr 01-2006
26 June 2006 02

MEMORADUM

From: *B.C. Frost*
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CCGD8 (dp)

To: Distribution

Subj: EXEMPTION FOR TOWING VESSELS ON INLAND WATERS FROM CARRYING
ECHO DEPTH-SOUNDING DEVICES

Ref: (a) 33 CFR 164.72 (a) (5)
(b) 33 CFR 164.70
(c) 33 CFR 89.25
(d) 33 CFR 89.27
(e) 33 CFR 164.01 (b) (4)
(f) COMDTINST M16672.2D, Inland Navigation Rule 3 (o)

1. **PURPOSE:** This policy letter establishes a district-wide exemption for towing vessels, towing operating exclusively on Inland Waters, from carrying echo depth-sounding devices.
2. **DISCUSSION:** Reference (a) exempts towing vessels operating exclusively on Western Rivers from carrying echo depth-sounding devices. Reference (b) defines Western Rivers to include those waters defined by reference (c) and (d). However, there are several waterways that are considered low navigational risk, but are not covered under the Western Rivers definition, i.e., deep draft channels for the major ports. Therefore, as allowed by reference (e), the Eighth District is expanding the Western Rivers exemption to include all Inland Waters as defined by reference (f).
3. **ACTION:** Eighth District OCMIs shall implement this guidance and disseminate the contents of this Policy Letter to owners and operators of towing vessels operating within the Eighth District.

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Dist: All Eighth District Sectors