



## **United States Coast Guard**

### **Marine Inspection Office Europe**



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### **MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 01-12**

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#### **Official Logbook Requirements**

Marine Inspectors continue to find vessels, operating within the USCG Activities Europe inspection zone, that do not properly maintain Official Logbooks. The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for ensuring compliance with the commercial vessel safety program. Part of this responsibility includes, Title 46 United States Code (U.S.C.) 11301—11304 and supporting regulations that require most merchant vessels to maintain an Official Logbook. The Official Logbook provides the vehicle through which any statutory and regulatory record keeping requirements are maintained.

The intent of this MSIB is to provide guidance to Mariners and vessel operators regarding the requirements for maintaining Official Logbooks. Mariners and vessel operators should note that on October 15, 2010 Public Law, 111–281, Title VI, § 607(b) added Section 11304 to Title 46 U.S.C. which requires the following;

- (a) A vessel of the United States that is subject to inspection under Section 3301 of this Title, except a vessel on a voyage from a port in the United States to a port in Canada, shall have an official logbook, which shall be kept available for review by the Secretary on request.
- (b) The log book required by subsection (a) shall include the following entries:
  - (1) The time when each seaman and each officer assumed or relieved the watch.
  - (2) The number of hours in service to the vessels of each seaman and each officer.
  - (3) An account of each accident, illness, and injury that occurs during each watch.

Additionally, please reference the applicable sites in the Code of Federal Regulations for the complete disclosure of the regulations referred to in this bulletin. Specifically 46 U.S.C. 11301-11302, 46 CFR subparts 35.07-5 (Tank Vessels), 78.37-3 (Passenger Vessels), 97.35-3 (Cargo and Miscellaneous Vessels), 109.431 (Mobile Offshore Drilling Units), 131.610 (Offshore Supply Vessels), 122.280 & 185.280 (Small Passenger Vessels), and 196.35-3 (Oceanographic Research Vessels) address the requirements for maintaining Official Logbooks on board certain vessels. These regulations are applicable to U.S. inspected vessels which operate solely overseas, without

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returning to the U.S. In most cases, the regulations denote that when a voyage is completed, or after a specified time has elapsed, the master shall file the official logbook containing required entries with the Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection (OCMI) at or nearest the port where the vessel is operating.

For vessels which are not engaged in routine voyages, owners/operators/masters shall submit Official Logs books every 60 days or at an alternate time as agreed to by the OCMI. Requests for alternative submittal periods are requested in writing and must address how this period will accommodate the needs of the master and crew onboard the vessel while meeting the intent of the regulations and allowing the OCMI adequate time to review.

The Coast Guard furnishes to masters of vessels of the United States the Official Logbook (Form CG-706B). To place an order for Official Logbooks please contact USCG Activities Europe or visit <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/logbook.asp>. Failure to properly maintain an Official Logbook may be an indication of a breakdown of the vessel's Safety Management System. If a vessel fails to properly maintain an Official Logbook, a deficiency noting the non-conformity will be issued, which will require a report of corrective actions to correct the non-conformity.

For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Bulletin, please contact Lieutenant Commander Michael DeLury at the above number or address.



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