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Marine Inspection Office Europe



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Scheduling and Conducting Underwater in Lieu of Drydock (UWILD) Exams

Vessel owner and operators are eligible to conduct UWILD Exams under 46 CFR 31.10-21(d), 91.40-3(d), 126.140(f), and 189.40-3(d). Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 01-89, "Underwater Survey Guidance," outlines the Coast Guard's guidance for applying and planning for an underwater survey. This advisory reiterates the expectations for vessels requesting a UWILD in the USCG Activities Europe Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection (OCMI) Zone.

I. Scheduling Coast Guard Attendance:

Enclosure 1 to NVIC 01-89 states that applications for underwater surveys should be submitted at least 90 days before the requested survey and the applications should address the following information:

- The identity of the diving contractor.
- The number of divers to be employed, type of diving equipment to be used, and their underwater nondestructive testing (NDT) and damage repair capabilities.
- A copy of the diving operations manual.
- The means of waterborne diver support.
- The means of taking rudder bearing clearances.
- The means of blanking sea chests for removal of sea valves.
- A letter signed by the vessel's master, chief engineer, or the person in charge, stating the general overall condition of the vessel, level of maintenance, any known or suspected damage, cleanliness of the underwater body, and the anticipated draft of the vessel at the time of the survey.
- The number of additional or vessel personnel who will be available to assist the dive team and Coast Guard marine inspector in conducting the underwater survey.
- The anticipated duration of the underwater survey.
- The method by which and the extent to which the hull will be cleaned.

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- Whether or not an Internal Structural Examination, Cargo Tank Internal Examination, and Integral Fuel Oil Tank exams as required by 46CFR31.10-21, 91.40-3, and 189.40-3 will be conducted concurrently with the underwater survey.
- Plans or drawings showing the external details of the hull below the sheer strake.

When requesting attendance, vessel owners and operators are requested to complete an online application for inspection, which is located on USCG Activities Europe's online portal at <http://www.uscg.mil/acteur/usrequest.asp>, and send the additional information in a separate email to acteurinspection@uscg.mil.

II. Conducting the Survey:

Enclosure 1 to NVIC 01-89 clearly outlines what is required to take place when conducting a UWILD. The following points are highlighted:

- The underwater survey should take as long as the inspector considers necessary to ensure that the ship is in a safe condition to continue operating until the next drydock examination. It is USCG Activities Europe's standpoint that a MINIMUM of two days needs to be scheduled when the UWILD is taking place concurrently with the Internal Structural Exam.
- During the inspection, the previous rudder bearing and stern tube clearance must be available for review.
- When conducting the Internal Structural Exam, ALL tanks must be available for inspection. It is at the inspector's discretion to determine which tanks and how many tanks should be entered prior to the vessel receiving credit. The tanks selected must be certified Gas Free prior to entry by a Certified Marine Chemist. Overseas, when no marine chemist is reasonably available, the regulations require the inspection to be made by the senior vessel officer present and properly noted in the vessel's logbook. Additionally, tanks must be ventilated during the inspection.
- While cargo operations are not necessarily forbidden during the inspection, additional safety measures should be in place.
- Sea valves are normally not required to be pulled during UWILDs; however, equipment must be readily available to do so should the attending inspector deem it necessary. At a minimum, hinged sea chest will be required to be opened for inspection.

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



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