



United States Coast Guard
Marine Inspection Office Europe



Lylantse Plein 1 Box 189
2908 LH Capelle a/d IJssel
The Netherlands

Phone: 31 (0) 10 442 4458
Fax: 31 (0) 10 450 4752
acteurinspections@uscg.mil

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REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTOMATION FOR UNATTENDED MACHINERY SPACE,
OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSELS

Due to a lack of preparation for testing of machinery automation during recent vessel inspections, this notice is being resent. Vessels without approved automation test procedures or without the equipment needed to complete the test on board will not be allowed to sail until sufficient crew is onboard to meet the increased manning, or the machinery automation tests are properly completed.

Offshore Supply Vessels with an endorsement on the vessel's Certificate of Inspection stating 'THE SPECIFIED MANNING LEVEL IS CONTINGENT UPON THE PROPER OPERATION OF THE ENGINEERING AUTOMATED CONTROL/MONITORING SYSTEMS' must have U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved automation test procedures on board as required by 46 CFR 130.480. At the time of the CG inspection, all equipment needed to successfully complete the automation test procedures must be on board the vessel.

Vessel operators must submit automation test procedures and the plans required by 46 CFR 130 Subpart D, to the local OCMI, or to the Marine Safety Center to get approval for reduced manning. Approvals usually take the form of an "approval stamp" directly on the documents or a letter from the reviewing unit stating that the documents were approved. If your vessel does not have approved procedures, contact the unit you submitted the documents to and request a copy of the approvals.

During the vessel exam, automation will be tested using the approved test procedures. All equipment required to conduct the tests must be on board the vessel prior to our arrival. Failure to provide required test equipment on board to properly conduct the machinery automation tests, in accordance with the approved test procedures will result in an increase in vessel manning until the machinery automation tests are satisfactorily conducted in the presence of a USCG marine inspector.

For additional information or clarification regarding this Information Bulletin, please contact LT Brian Province at the above number or address.

L. L. Fagan
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Officer in Charge Marine Inspection, Acting