



# *United States Coast Guard*

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## *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](mailto:acteurinspections@uscg.mil)

### **MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 03-09**

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#### **Official Logbook Requirements**

In recent months Marine Inspectors have become aware of several vessels, operating within the USCG Activities Europe inspection zone, which do not maintain Official Logbooks. The U.S. Coast Guard is tasked with the commercial vessel safety program. As part of this tasking, Title 46 United States Code (U.S.C.) 11301—11303 and supporting regulations 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. 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 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 returning to the U.S.

The Official Logbook contains information about the voyage, the vessel's crew, drills, and operations conducted during the voyage. Official Logbook entries identify all particulars of the voyage, including the name of the ship, official number, port of registry, tonnage, names and merchant mariner document numbers of the master and crew, the nature of the voyage, and class of ship. In addition, it also contains entries for the vessel's drafts, maintenance of watertight integrity of the ship, drills and inspections, crew list and report of character, a summary of laws applicable to Logbooks, and miscellaneous entries.

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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 may be.

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 with 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 gratuitously furnishes to masters of vessels of the United States the Official Logbook as Form CG-706B or CG-706C, depending upon the number of persons employed as crew. To place an order for Official Logbooks please contact USCG Activities Europe or visit <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/logbook.asp>.

It is vital that the communication and partnership between the Coast Guard and the maritime industry continue to strengthen. It is imperative and mandatory that requirements for maintaining and submitting Official Logbooks be followed. Any violations of these regulations may be subject to civil penalties. For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Bulletin, please contact Lieutenant Commander Michael DeLury at the above number or address.



J. W. KOSTER  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection