

United States
Coast Guard

National Pollution Funds Center

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CG 94-14
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"VESSEL CERTIFICATES OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES (COFRs)"

The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 raised vessel limits of liability for oil spills. The U.S. Coast Guard implemented OPA's mandates by publishing companion vessel financial responsibility requirements in the Federal Register on July 1, 1994. The regulations provide for the phased implementation of the new higher limits of financial responsibility. The regulations require compliance of all self-propelled tank vessels by December 28, 1994.

Since the promulgation of the new regulations, the U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) has been inundated with requests for listings of self-propelled tank vessels that have met the new requirements. In order to provide this information to the maximum number of people possible in the most timely manner possible, the U.S. Coast Guard's Navigation Information Service (NIS) Bulletin Board has been expanded to include the most commonly requested information. The Bulletin Board now contains the names, flags, gross tonnages, and COFR applicants' names and address of all self-propelled tank vessels that have been issued new OPA COFRs. This data is updated daily as vessels are added to or deleted from the list and can be downloaded as an 80 column format ASCII file. While the vessels listed have in fact been issued COFRs under the new regulation, this listing in no way attests to vessels' compliance with other applicable documentation, safety, construction, or pollution prevention requirements or their availability for charter. Further details or information concerning COFRs may be obtained by calling the U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center at (703) 235-4813 between 7:00am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday or 8:30am through 5:00pm on Saturdays. The National Pollution Funds Center may also be contacted by FAX at (703) 235-4835 or by writing to Suite 1000, 4200 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203-1804. Comments and/or recommendations relative to the utility of the information contained within this portion of the Bulletin Board are invited.

Anyone who has access to a computer and a modem can access the U.S. Coast Guard's NIS Bulletin Board System (BBS). The BBS is free and open to all. However, users will have to pay their own

connection charges (long distance telephone or public data network costs). First time callers are asked to register on-line before proceeding to the BBS Main Menu. The BBS is available by ordinary telephone lines or SprintNet's high speed error free alternative for anyone having difficulty making a good data connection over their voice phone lines. In addition to the new COFR data, the NIS BBS contains information on the Civil GPS Service, Notice Advisories to NAVSTAR users, Almanac, Precise Ephemeris Data, Coast Guard DGPS Project Updates, Omega Status Messages, LORAN-C user notification messages and Differential GPS Status. The NIS BBS also has areas set aside for general information and associated topics such as the text of the Federal Radionavigation Plan, Recreational Boating Safety, Local Notice to Mariners, Marine Communications Notices and other items which may be of interest to the maritime community.

Modem speeds of 300 to 28,800 bps and most common U.S. or international protocols are supported on twelve phone lines. Two auxiliary lines are available for users experiencing difficulty maintaining a phone line connection. Communications parameters should be set to 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit, asynchronou8 comms with full duplex. The NIS BBS can be accessed by calling (703) 313-5910. SprintNet subscribers may use SprintNet: 3110350113280 or abbreviate to 202 1328 if accessing via telephone to one of their modems. Information relative to COFRs may be obtained by selecting "National Pollution Funds Center" from the Main Menu and following the instructions that follow.

Users needing further information or assistance may contact the NIS BBS'S watchstander at (703) 313-5900 or they can page the system operator (/p Sysop) to request more personalized assistance.

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