

Bilge Pumping System

Links to applicable regulations

[46 CFR 28.255](#)

Checklist for this item

	Bilge pumps and bilge piping capable of draining watertight compartments, except tanks and small buoyancy compartments.
	Individual pumps with float switches tested for proper operation.
	Check condition of bilge hoses to overboard.
	Large spaces , such as engine room, must be fitted with more than one suction line.
	If your vessel has spaces used in the sorting or processing of fish
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They must be fitted with a dewatering system capable of dewatering the space at the same rate as water is introduced.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The dewatering pump must be interlocked with the pump supplying the water so that if the dewatering pump fails, the water supply pump will be deactivated.
	If a portable bilge pump is used to dewater a space:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check suction hoses to ensure sufficient length to reach the bottom of the bilge.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check discharge hose for adequate length to ensure overboard discharge.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The portable pump must be capable of dewatering each space it serves at a rate of at least 2 inches of water per minute.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check condition of all hoses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check operation of portable pump
	If a fixed bilge pumping system with manifold is used:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check condition of all piping.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check manifold stop valves are labeled with the name of the space it services.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check that stop valve operate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There must be a check valve at some accessible point in the bilge line, check that it operates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check to ensure there is a strainer at the end of each bilge suction line that is at least 3 times the opening of the suction line.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check the condition of the strainer.

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Voyage Termination Warning

Your vessels voyage can be terminated if the bilge pumping system is not operational
