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APR 26 2004

Dear Puget Sound Vessel Operator:

On December 16, 2003, the Coast Guard published new policy in the Federal Register, (Vol. 68, No. 241, page 69958) for expanded use of the existing Notice of Violation ("Ticket") Program, formerly only used for minor oil spills, to include other violations of the regulations. As of January 5, 2003, failures to complete required reports and actions associated with marine casualties, among other violations, may result in a "Ticket" issued to the responsible party on the spot or mailed soon thereafter. Specific violations now included in this program include:

Regulation Cite	Description	1st Offense
46 CFR 4.05-1	Failure to give immediate notice of a marine casualty involving an occurrence listed in 46 CFR 4.05-1.	<u>\$5,000</u>
46 CFR 4.05-10(a)	Failure to report a marine casualty in writing within five days to the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection.	<u>\$1,000</u>
46 CFR 4.06-1(b)	Failure of a marine employer to complete chemical testing for those individuals directly involved in a serious marine incident.	<u>\$1,000</u>
46 CFR 4.06-60	Failure of a marine employer to submit required reports and chemical test results for a serious marine incident.	<u>\$1,000</u>

Of those listed above, the most common violations found are for failing to complete required chemical testing of personnel involved in a serious marine incident (defined in 46 CFR 4.03-2). For these incidents, the marine employer is required to identify the person(s) involved and have them tested according to their required Drug and Alcohol Program established in accordance with 46 CFR 16, 33 CFR 95 and 49 CFR 40. Testing should be completed as soon as practicable after the incident, preferably within 2 hours for alcohol and within 32 hours for drugs.

To reduce the likelihood of being issued a ticket, you should ensure those responsible in your organization for the actions listed above are familiar with the reporting and testing requirements of 46 CFR 4.05 and 46 CFR 4.06. To obtain the latest versions of written casualty reports (Coast Guard Forms 2692, 2692A, and 2692B) go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/moa/repor.htm> or call the number above and one will be faxed to you. If you need additional information or have any questions about Drug & Alcohol Programs or marine casualty reporting, please visit MSO Puget Sound's web site at <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/units/msopuget/> or call our Drug and Alcohol Program Inspector at the number above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. L. Boone".

G. L. BOONE

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Senior Investigating Officer
By direction