

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**United States
Coast Guard**



Commanding Officer
Vessel Traffic Service
Puget Sound

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Dear Puget Sound Vessel Operator:

On December 20, 2003, the Coast Guard published new policy in the Federal Register, (Vol. 68, No. 241, page 69958) expanding the scope of its Notice of Violation (NOV) program for resolving civil penalty cases as provided for in 33 CFR part 1, subpart 1.07. This revised policy expands the use of the NOV program to all statutory penalty provisions that the Coast Guard is authorized to enforce. As of January 5, 2004, failures to complete the required reports and or actions may result in a ticket issued to the responsible party.

This new program allows the responsible party the option of accepting the proposed penalty and making direct payment to the treasury or to decline the Notice of Violation and request that the Coast Guard Hearing Office process the alleged violation for adjudication.

Each Vessel Traffic Center (VTC) is required to report all observed violations for processing. It is critical that vessel operators fully understand and comply with VTS regulations so they may avoid violations resulting in expensive penalties. A copy of the full instruction can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/directives/cim/cim%5F5582%5F1a.pdf>. Enclosure one (1) lists those regulations associated with the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) and Vessel Movement Reporting System (VMRS) participants.

Sincerely,

S. Ferguson
Commander U.S. Coast Guard
CO, Vessel Traffic Service Puget Sound

Enclosure: (1) 33CFR161 series Table of Violations