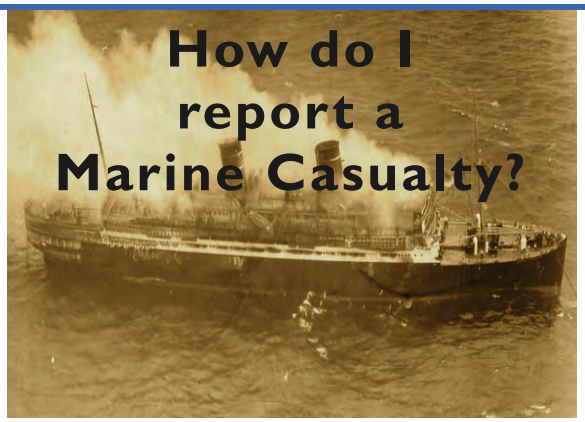


How do I report a Marine Casualty?

Step 1

Verify that you have been involved in a "Reportable" Marine Casualty as listed on the front of this brochure or 46 CFR 4.05-1. Determine if it is a Serious Marine Incident as listed in this brochure or 46 CFR 4.03-2

Step 2 *

Call the U.S. Coast Guard and report it to

305-535-4472/4473

Or

Any of the following means:

Channel 16 VHF/FM
Cell Phone
Automatic Identification System (AIS)
Digital Selective Calling (DSC)
INMARSAT
SARSAT
EMAIL
Marine Operator

Step 3 *

Submit a written report in Form CG-2692 (Report of Marine Accident, Injury or Death)

As per 46 CFR 4.05-10, the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge of the vessel shall, within five days, file a written report of any marine casualty required to be reported under 46 CFR 4.05-1

CG-2692 reporting forms can be obtained online at: homeport.uscg.mil

*** Failure to perform steps 2 & 3 could result in imposed fines not to exceed $35,000**

United States Coast Guard

Department of Homeland Security

What is a Reportable Marine Casualty and when do I have to report them ?

As per 46 CFR subpart 4.05-1 and immediately after addressing resultant safety concerns, the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge, shall notify the nearest USCG Sector Marine Inspection Office whenever a vessel is involved in a marine casualty consisting of:

1) An unintended grounding, or an unintended strike of (allision with) a bridge;
2) An intended grounding, or an intended strike of a bridge, that creates a hazard to navigation, the environment or the safety of a vessel, or that meets any criterion of paragraphs 3 thru 8;
3) A loss of main propulsion, primary steering, or any associated component or control system that reduces the maneuverability of the vessel;
4) An occurrence materially and adversely affecting the vessel's seaworthiness or fitness for service or route, including but not limited to fire, flooding, or failure of or damage to fixed fire-extinguishing systems, life saving equipment, auxiliary power– generating equipment, or bilge– pumping systems;
5) Loss of Life;
6) An Injury that requires professional medical treatment (treatment beyond first aid), and if the person is engaged or employed on board a vessel in commercial service, that renders the individual unfit to perform his or her routine duties;
7) Occurrence causing property damage in excess of $25,000, this damage includes the cost of the labor and material to restore the property to its condition before the occurrence, but not including the cost of cleaning, gas freeing, dry-docking , or demurrage;
8) An occurrence involving significant harm to the environment as defined in 46 CFR 4.03-65.

Do I need Alcohol and Drug testing?

46 CFR 4.05-12

For each marine casualty required to be reported, and verified to be a Serious Marine Incident, the marine employer shall determine whether there is any evidence of alcohol or drug use by individuals directly involved in the casualty and report the results on a CG-2692B.

Serious Marine Incident

The term Serious Marine Incident includes the following events involving a vessel in commercial service:

Any marine casualty or accident as defined on the front of this brochure or 46 CFR 4.03-1, which is required to be reported by 46 CFR 4.-05-1 resulting in the following:

1) One or more deaths;
2) An injury to a crewmember, passenger, or other person which requires professional medical treatment beyond first aid, and, in the case of a person employed aboard a vessel in commercial service, which renders the individual unfit to perform routine vessel duties;
3) Damage to property, as defined in 46 CFR 4.05-1(a)(7) of this part, in excess of $100,000;
4) Actual or constructive total loss of any vessel Subject to inspection under 46 USC 3301;
5) Actual or constructive total loss of any self-propelled vessel, not subject to inspection under 46 USC 3301, 100 gross tons or more;
6) A discharge of oil of 10,000 gallons or more into the navigable waters of the United States, as defined by 33 USC 1321, whether or not resulting from a marine casualty;
7) A discharge of a reportable quantity (RQ) of a hazardous substance into navigable waters of the U.S. or a release of a RQ of a hazardous substance into the environment, whether or not resulting from a marine casualty.

Who is Required to conduct Alcohol and Drug Testing

Coast Guard regulations currently require marine employers to take all practical steps after a Serious Marine Incident to have each individual engaged or employed on board a vessel in commercial service, who is directly involved in the incident, chemically tested for evidence of drug and alcohol use.

Effective June 20, 2006, the law requires that most commercial vessels have alcohol testing devices on board, and authorizes the use of saliva as an acceptable specimen for alcohol testing.

Certain operations where the vessels could conceivably get the tests completed within two hours will not need to carry the alcohol testing devices; however, all other vessels should carry them to ensure they will not be subject to civil penalty of $5,000 per violation, with each day of a continuing violation constituting separate violations.

Conforming products for Evidential Breath Measurement Devices can be obtained by contacting The Coast Guard Sector Miami Investigation office.

Time Limit Requirements

Drug testing is mandatory within 32 hours following a Serious Marine Incident.

Alcohol testing is mandatory within 2 hours following a Serious Marine Incident.

If alcohol testing cannot be conducted within 2 hours due to safety concerns directly related to the casualty, testing is to be conducted as soon as the safety concerns have been adequately addressed to permit such testing, but no later than 8 hours after the incident.

The responsibility to ensure that the alcohol testing occurs remains with the marine employer.

Further Explanation of "Immediately after addressing of resultant safety concerns"

46 CFR 4.05-1

"Immediately after the addressing of resultant safety concerns" means immediately after addressing the safety of the passengers and crew, and determining the seaworthiness and ability of the vessel to safely navigate. The owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge of a vessel, shall notify the nearest USCG Sector Marine Inspection Office whenever a vessel is involved in a marine casualty."

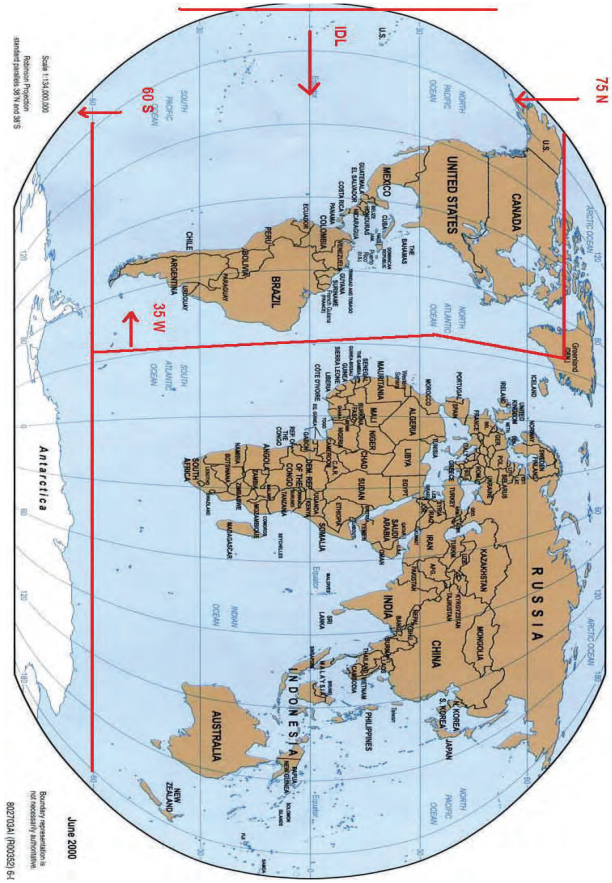
Make immediate notification not only to avoid potential fines but more importantly because it is a prudent practice. If a vessel experiences a shipboard fire or flooding or personnel casualty, it is critical for the operator to notify the Coast Guard so appropriate rescue or assist assets can be mobilized if the situation cannot be controlled by using the ship's resources. Bottom line: Reporting of Marine Casualties should be within minutes of stabilizing the emergency situation onboard. A vessel's representative shall contact the Coast Guard to make immediate notification.

The primary purpose of Marine Casualty investigations is to determine causes to prevent their reoccurrence and not to identify civil or criminal responsibility.

In what operating areas do I have to report to the U.S. Coast Guard?

Marine Casualties shall be reported to the Coast Guard for:

1) A marine casualty involving a United States citizen on a foreign passenger vessel outside 12 nautical miles, specifically operating south of 75 degrees north latitude, west of 35 degrees west longitude and east of the International Date Line; (see chart below) or operating in the area south of 60 degrees south latitude that-

a) embarks or disembarks passengers in the United States; (Miami, NY, Charleston, etc.), or

b) transports passengers traveling under any form of air and sea ticket package marketed in the United States. (Itineraries made through Travel Agencies or Airlines)