



Port Community Information Bulletin # 04-03*
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2189
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: January 21, 2003
Expiration Date: TBD

VERTICAL DELIVERY BOARDINGS

The U.S. Coast Guard has just completed a pilot Vertical Delivery program, which uses a U. S. Coast Guard H-60 helicopter to embark and disembark Sea Marshals to inbound/outbound vessels. In our estimation, this program represents a resounding success due in part to support of Tampa Bay's maritime community. We are now entering the second phase of this program. During this second phase it is critical that we have the flexibility to vertically deliver boarding teams on board all vessels entering the Ports of Tampa and Manatee at our discretion with a 24-hour notice to vessel agents.

We have taken every effort to make this a safe operation. I can assure you that we have and will continue to conduct these boardings in a safe and efficient manner. With your continued support, Sea Marshals can continue to protect your vessel(s) and the local marine transportation system in the most safe and efficient manner.

With the exception of a small number of operators who have asked to be exempted from this delivery scheme due to unusual operational or logistical concerns, the Vertical Delivery boardings will be conducted on all port callers at our discretion with a 24-hour notice to vessel agents. It is critical that you advise your vessel(s) of this policy to ensure they have procedures in place to safely facilitate the vertical delivery and recovery of Sea Marshals.

* This PCIB cancels PCIB 14-02.

J. M. FARLEY
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port