



## Marine Safety Information Bulletin

02-16

March 7, 2016

### **REQUIREMENT TO REPORT VESSEL GROUNDINGS AND OTHER MARINE CASUALTIES**

Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4.05-1, outlines the type of marine casualties that must be reported immediately to the Coast Guard. In addition to the “immediate” reporting requirements, Title 46, CFR, Part 4.05-10 requires vessel operators to notify the Coast Guard, in writing, within 5 days after a casualty has occurred.

The regulatory definition of “marine casualty” has not changed; however, Coast Guard has modified their interpretation of what is considered to be a marine casualty. For example, unintended groundings that are momentary (e.g., reversing engines frees the grounded vessel on the first attempt, no assist vessel is needed to free the vessel, all towing connections remain intact) and do not result in any other marine casualty criteria being met as defined in regulations, are no longer considered reportable marine casualties requiring a CG-2692. However, these casualties still require notification to the appropriate Coast Guard Command Center as a hazardous condition per 33 CFR Part 160.216. (*see* NVIC 01-15)

Likewise, if a vessel loses propulsion, primary steering, or any associated component but a redundant system is in place and performs as designed with no reduction in maneuverability, then the Coast Guard will not treat this as a reportable marine casualty under 46 CFR Part 4. But note, again, these types of casualties will still require notification to the appropriate Coast Guard Command Center as a hazardous condition per 33 CFR Part 160.216.

Facility managers are reminded that it is their responsibility to survey a facility’s docks and moorings. In order to ensure vessel safety at waterfront facilities, the Coast Guard highly recommends that each waterfront facility conduct periodic depth soundings alongside their docks and provide this information to the pilots, vessel agents, and arriving vessels. This practice should significantly reduce the risk of grounding and prevent vessel delays at facilities while hull surveys, investigations, inspections, and repairs take place. These surveys would also provide useful baseline survey data for post-hurricane recovery, damage, or loss for insurance claims, as well as support for an emergency declaration and access to possible federal financial assistance.

This note will be posted on the Coast Guard’s HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS website at [www.uscg.mil/d8/vtspportarthur](http://www.uscg.mil/d8/vtspportarthur). If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call VTS Port Arthur at (409) 719-5070.

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