



Marine Safety Information Bulletin
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SEAGOING COAL BARGES SUBJECT TO INSPECTION

It has come to our attention that the categorization of coal as a hazardous material (HAZMAT) may not be widely known and that some seagoing barges carrying coal as cargo may not be inspected and certificated by the Coast Guard as required by federal regulations.

Per Title 46, United States Code (USC), Section 3301, seagoing barges are subject to inspection. However, per Title 46, USC, Section 3302(m), unmanned, seagoing barges that do not carry HAZMAT or flammable or combustible liquids, including oil, in bulk have been exempted from inspection and certification requirements. Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 148.10, however, designates coal as a "potentially dangerous material" (PDM). The characteristics inherent to PDM are listed in Title 46, CFR, Table 148.11.

HAZMAT, as defined by Title 46, USC, is further clarified in the Coast Guard Marine Safety Manual (MSM), Volume II, to include designated HAZMAT found in the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1975, as amended. MSM, Volume II, states that this act is also the statutory authority for Title 46, CFR, Part 148, which governs the transportation of bulk solid hazardous materials. As coal is listed in Part 148, it is considered HAZMAT when transported in bulk by vessel.

Accordingly, seagoing barges over 100 gross tons carrying coal as cargo, whether manned or unmanned, are required to meet Coast Guard inspection requirements for certification under Title 46, CFR, Subchapter I. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact my Chief of Prevention, LCDR Randy Jenkins, at (409) 723-6500.

G. J. PAITL
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port