

U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
8th Coast Guard District  
Hale Boggs Federal Bldg

501 Magazine Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3396  
Staff Symbol: (moc-1)  
Phone: (504) 589-6743

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22 November 1996

From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District  
To: Distribution

Subj: STREAMLINED INSPECTION PROCESS

Ref: (a) 3 October 1996 teleconference  
(b) GUIDE TO THE STREAMLINED INSPECTION PROCESS revised 2/14/96

1. This letter formalizes the decisions made regarding the Streamlined Inspection Process during reference (a) and modifies some of the provisions of reference (b). Effective immediately, the following policies apply:

a. Coast Guard inspectors are not required to conduct SIP audits at the time when the Inspections for Certification and reinspections would have been due under the traditional inspection regime. However, inspectors shall visit vessels at least annually to conduct an SIP audit. This requirement for an annual audit applies to all types of vessels in the SIP program, including those under Subchapter H. This audit shall be conducted at the mutual convenience of the company and OCMI. Although the COI still has blocks to indicate when and where the COI exam was done, it should be evident that actual Inspections for Certification or reinspections are not done under the SIP.

b. The OCMI who enrolls a vessel into the SIP will be known as the "Homeport OCMI" for that company. The Homeport OCMI is responsible for issuing the Certificates of Inspection for all vessels it enrolled in the SIP. At the times when a traditional reinspection would be due, the Homeport OCMI may authorize the company to endorse the reinspection block of the vessel's COI.

c. Approximately thirty days before a reinspection or Inspection for Certification would have been scheduled, the company shall certify to the Homeport OCMI that all verification activities have been conducted as required by the Vessel Action Plan. Upon receipt of this statement, the Homeport OCMI shall verify that an annual Coast Guard SIP audit had been conducted within the past twelve months. If no audit is documented, the Homeport OCMI shall ensure that one is completed before issuing a new COI or authorizing the company to endorse the reinspection block on the Certificate of Inspection.

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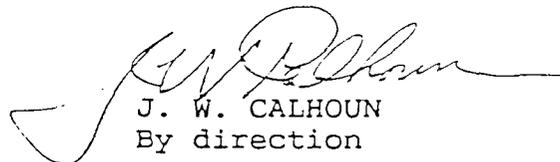
d. To avoid inspection "creep," the issue date of the new COI shall be the date of expiration of the previous COI. The date and location blocks on the COI shall show the date of issuance and the Homeport OCMI location, e.g., a COI issued by MSO New Orleans effective 30 November 1996 would indicate that a COI exam was done at New Orleans, LA on 30 November 1996, even though the SIP audit was completed six months earlier in a Texas port.

e. In addition to the required endorsement on the COI, the Homeport OCMI shall complete a MIAR stating that a vessel has been entered into the program. A MIAR shall also be completed when a COI is issued, or when the COI block is endorsed for completion of a reinspection. Any unit conducting an audit shall enter a MIAR documenting the audit.

f. Vessels found to be in an unsatisfactory condition, or not in compliance with their Vessel Action Plan, shall be reported to the Homeport OCMI who shall determine the appropriate actions regarding vessel status. Authority for removing an individual vessel from the program rests with the Homeport OCMI. Authority for removing a company from the program rests with the District Commander and shall be taken upon recommendation of the Homeport OCMI.

g. Vessels experiencing a change of ownership with retention of the trained SIP crew may, at the option of the Homeport OCMI, be allowed to remain in the SIP program for up to six months. This extension will be granted following a meeting between the new company and the Homeport OCMI, and only when the OCMI is satisfied that the company is committed to formalizing its participation in the SIP program.

2. Questions regarding this matter may be directed to LT Keith Fordham at (504) 589-6743.

  
J. W. CALHOUN  
By direction

Dist: All Eighth District Coastal MSOs, MSU and MSDs