

U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
Eighth Coast Guard District  
Hale Boggs Federal Building

501 Magazine St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3396  
Staff Symbol: MOC  
Phone (504) 589-3624

16711  
18 June 1997

From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District  
To: Distribution

Subj: ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded for your information.

  
G. A. TETREAU  
By direction

Encl: (1) COMDT (G-MOC-2) ltr 16711 G-MOC Policy Ltr No. 7-97 of  
11 June 1997

Dist: All Eighth District MSOs, MSU and MSDs



16711

G-MOC Policy Ltr No. 7-97

JUN 11 1997

From: Commandant  
To: Distribution

Subj: ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION (COI)

Ref: (a) Marine Safety Manual, Vol II, Section 6.C.1

1. At a recent meeting with offshore industry personnel and congressional staffers, we received several complaints that vessel owners were unable to get Certificates of Inspection (COI) for new vessels until after a Certificate of Documentation (COD) had been issued. It has never been our intention to withhold or delay issuance of the COI until after the COD is issued and received by the vessel owner. In cases where a vessel has successfully completed the inspection for certification and a valid application for documentation has been received by the Coast Guard, issuance of the COI should not be delayed in order to allow for processing and issuance of the COD.

2. It is not necessary to await the COD for the vessel's tonnage as it is available from the U.S. Tonnage Certificate issued by those organizations authorized to admeasure vessels (currently the America Bureau of Shipping and Det Norske Veritas). If there are questions about this or other items concerning the vessel's documentation, the inspector should check the Marine Safety Information System record or contact the Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center directly at (304) 271-2506.

3. The above policy will be published in a future change to the Marine Safety Manual. A copy of the draft change is attached.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D.J. Haize".

D. J. HAIZE  
By direction

Encl: (1) Draft Change to MSM

Dist: All G-M Offices  
All District (m) Offices  
National Maritime Center  
Marine Safety School

Marine Safety Center  
USCG/ABS Liaison Officer  
USCG/MSL Liaison Officer

**Marine Safety Manual, Vol II, Section 6.C.1 rewrite:**

1. General Provisions. 46 U.S.C. Chapter 33 requires that certain vessels possess a Certificate of Inspection (COIs). Issuance of this certificate is dependent upon the satisfactory completion of an inspection for certification. Retention of the COI depends upon the continued maintenance of the vessel in a safe operating condition. The Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection is authorized to issue permanent COIs generated by the Marine Safety Information System (see chapter 3 of this volume), or Temporary COIs (Form CG-854) pending issuance of the permanent form, when satisfied that the vessel in question complies with all applicable statutes and regulations and can be operated safely without endangering life or property.

Frequently the inspection for certification for a new vessel is completed before the vessel's Certification of Documentation (COD) has been issued. In cases where the application for documentation has been received by the Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center, the issuance of the COI should not be delayed awaiting receipt of the COD. For questions regarding a pending vessel documentation, the inspector should contact the National Vessel Documentation Center directly.