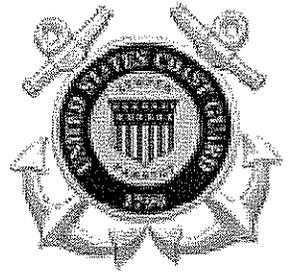




**Eighth Coast Guard District
Office of Prevention
Marine Safety Information Bulletin
02-10
January 13, 2011**



**REMOVAL OF THE MINERAL AND OIL LICENSING EXEMPTION
FOUND IN 46 USC 8905 (b)**

The licensing exemption for vessels less than 200 gross registered tons operating in support of offshore mineral and oil exploration is no longer in effect. The exemption, found in 46 USC 8905 (b), was removed when the Coast Guard Authorization Act was signed in to law on October 15, 2010. All operators of vessels less than 200 gross tons, with mineral and oil industry sites or equipment as their ultimate destination or place of departure, must now have an appropriate and valid Coast Guard issued Merchant Mariner's credential (license).

For licensing inquiries, please contact the National Maritime Center at 1-888-427-5662 or <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/>. If you are currently operating a vessel under this exemption, have questions or need additional information, please contact the nearest Coast Guard Sector or Marine Safety Unit. The Eighth District's points of contact for this issue are LT Daphne Coffman or Mr. Michael White at 1-504-671-2105.

J.W. JOHNSON

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
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Eighth Coast Guard District
By Direction