

## General Information

According to Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 100.15(a):

“An individual or organization planning to hold a regatta or marine parade which, by its: nature, circumstances, or location will introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of life on the navigable waters of the United States, shall submit an application to the Coast Guard.”

Examples of conditions which are deemed to introduce extra or unusual hazards to safety of life include, but are not limited to:

- Inherently hazardous condition – high speed boat race or fireworks taking place near or over the river
- Will your event interfere with the customary presence of commercial or pleasure craft in the area – could be boat parades or blessing of the fleet events
- Obstruction of navigable channel which may reasonably be expected to result – high speed boat course or water ski show demonstration areas
- the expected accumulation of spectator craft – vessels mooring or anchoring to watch fireworks

As referenced in 33 CFR 100.15(a), a regatta or marine parade means an organized water event of limited duration, which is conducted according to a prearranged schedule. For events scheduled to take place on or near the Navigable Waters of the United States in the following states, a sponsor must submit a marine event permit application to the Captain of the Port Sector Upper Mississippi River.

All navigable waters of:

- Iowa
- Kansas
- Colorado
- Nebraska
- Missouri
- Wyoming
- South Dakota
- North Dakota

Certain navigable waters of:

- Minnesota
- Wisconsin
- Illinois

Common marine events that take place within the Captain of the Port Sector Upper Mississippi River are fireworks displays (barge and land based), high speed boat races, boat parades, water ski shows, air shows, and excursions with numerous vessels.

As the sponsor of an event, please free feel to contact Sector Upper Mississippi River Event Coordinator staff. They will be able to facilitate the completion and submission of marine event permit applications, and also answer any general questions.

### **Do I Need to Submit an Application?**

Please answer the following questions in order to help determine if you are required to apply for a Coast Guard Marine Event Permit.

1. Is your event being held on or near navigable waters?
2. Will the event involve more than 50 participating vessels or more than 200 spectator vessels?
3. Will the event take place in or near a designated environmentally sensitive area, a critical habitat containing threatened or endangered species or an area of historic, cultural, or archeological significance?
4. Will the event involve participating vessels traveling at speeds of greater than 30 miles per hour?
5. Will the event cause participating or spectator vessels to cross, block, or cause substantial interference with navigation on a body of water?
6. Could the event present a substantial threat to the safety of human life on navigable waters?
7. Are you requesting the use of Coast Guard resources or the issuance of a special local regulation? Coast Guard special local regulations include a broadcast notice to mariners (BNM) or establishing a Safety Zone.

If you have answered "**NO**" to all of these questions, then a U.S. Coast Guard Marine Event Permit is not required. However, the event may not be exempted from other state or local regulations. Check with state and local governments for their specific requirements.

If you have answered "**YES**" to any of these questions, you will be required to submit an application to this office in accordance with the timeline established by 33 CFR 100.15(c). The U.S. Coast Guard Marine Event Permit Application should be submitted no less than 135 days before the start of the start of event. However, if all of the following criteria list in 33 CFR 100.15(c)(1-9) are met, the application must be submitted no less than 60 days before the start of the proposed event.

The sponsor is ultimately responsible for ensuring all of the appropriate state and local agencies have been notified. A state clearinghouse can be used to ensure all of the appropriate agencies have been notified. However, in regards to state clearinghouses, some states do not have this mechanism in place. Sponsors will then have to contact each individual agency. Agencies could identify areas of concern, which would need to be resolved before the approval process may continue. Links have been provided on the Sector Upper Mississippi River Marine Event Permit Webpage to several other state, local, and federal agencies. Feedback from all agencies should be included with the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Event Permit Application.

For events requiring course markers or events that could potentially adversely affect aids to navigation, the sponsor must contact the Army Corps of Engineers that has jurisdiction in the area where the event is scheduled to take place. Army Corps of Engineers links have been provided on the Sector Upper Mississippi River Marine Event Permit Webpage.