

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Do I Need to Submit an Application?

According to Title 33, Part 100.15 of the Code of Federal Regulations: “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.”

Regatta or marine parade means an organized water event of limited duration, which is conducted according to a prearranged schedule.

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

- An inherently hazardous competition.
- The customary presence of commercial or pleasure craft in the area.
- Any obstruction of navigable channel which may reasonably be expected to result.
- The expected accumulation of spectator craft.

Navigable waters of the United States for events under the jurisdiction of the Captain of the Port St. Louis includes the navigable waters located in the following states:

Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, or North Dakota

Or

In certain parts of the following:

Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois

(Please call the Application Coordinator for questions on location applicability.)

Examples of events include but are not limited to: fireworks displays on or near waterways, shoot-outs, races, marine parades, water ski shows, air shows, excursions with numerous vessels, and the blessing of a fleet. An important note is that size is not a determining factor. Furthermore, if you feel you are in doubt as to whether your event is required to have an application, submit an application. There is no submission fees associated with the Coast Guard Marine Event permit.

You are required to submit an application to this office if your event DOES meet the above applicability. Please proceed to the Marine Event Application link to find out about deadlines, time requirements, and submission procedures to Sector Upper Mississippi River.

If an event is held which requires an approved marine event permit and the sponsor does not obtain the permit, the Coast Guard will initiate civil enforcement action. The maximum civil penalty is \$6,500.00. Furthermore, the Coast Guard Captain of the Port may close or cancel the event.

2. Who is ultimately responsible for ensuring all of the appropriate agencies are contacted before I submit my application to the Coast Guard?

The sponsor of the Marine Event is ultimately responsible to ensure that all interested parties have been notified and all feedback is attached to the Marine Event packet. The provided information will then be reviewed by the Coast Guard.

3. What constitutes (extra or unusual hazards) in CFR Title 33 Part 100.15?

Examples of conditions which are deemed to introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of life include but are not limited to: An inherently hazardous competition, the customary presence of commercial or pleasure craft in the area, any obstruction of navigable channel which may reasonably be expected to result, and the expected accumulation of spectator craft.

4. Which agencies must I contact before I submit my application to the USCG for approval?

The sponsor should contact at a minimum the State/Local Environmental Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency. The sponsor may contact the State Clearinghouse (if applicable) to assist them with transmitting their permit information to the necessary environmental agencies within that State. If no Clearinghouse is available, then the sponsor must reach out to the individual agencies themselves. Additionally if Aids to Navigation are to be utilized during the marine event then the sponsor is required to contact the Army Corp of Engineers that has jurisdiction in the area where the event is to take place. Links to some agencies can be found on the Sector Upper Mississippi River website.

Reminder: In the event that a marine event is occurring on the river in the navigable portion of the channel, approval must be sought from all governing State's agencies affected, not just the State where the event is staged from.

5. What kind of amplifying information from other agencies should I include with the permit?

There are many different parties who are interested anytime that Maritime Events take place. The main concerns are for the safety of persons, property, and the safeguarding of the environment. Any/All multi-agency feedback and correspondence should be written in or attached to the Marine Event packet. This feedback should state any concerns or hazards that should be reviewed before the event takes place.

6. Why has the permit process changed from previous years?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions. This more formalized process allows Sector Upper Mississippi River to ensure compliance with NEPA requirements while providing a historical record for all future events that may occur.