



Marine Safety Information Bulletin 13-14 October 15, 2014

Vessel Reporting Requirements – Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever (Ebola HF)

In response to the outbreak of Ebola HF, Marine Safety Units Port Arthur and Lake Charles are screening all inbound vessels and crewmembers that have visited Western Africa within their last 5 ports of call. Vessel representatives are being specifically questioned as to whether any crewmembers exhibit any of the symptoms detailed below:

SYMPTOMS

Ebola symptoms include fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, sore throat, and weakness, followed by diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach pain. In addition, some may experience skin rash, red eyes, and internal and external bleeding. Symptoms may appear from 2 to 21 days after exposure. More signs or symptoms are found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/symptoms>.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Vessel representatives are required to report sick or deceased crew or passengers within the last 15 days to the CDC by 42 CFR 71.21. Regional CDC quarantine station points of contact can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/QuarantineStationContactListFull.html>
- 33 CFR 160.215 requires that whenever there is a *Hazardous Condition* aboard a vessel, the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge shall immediately notify the Coast Guard. If a crewmember exhibits any of the above listed symptoms, the Captain of the Port has deemed that this situation meets the definition and reporting requirements for a *Hazardous Condition*. Failure to report the above information immediately is a violation of 33 CFR 160.215 and may subject the vessel to a civil penalty of up to \$40,000.

ACTIONS TO TAKE IF INDIVIDUALS PRESENT THE SYMPTOMS ABOVE

- Isolate suspect crewmembers from contact with unprotected persons in a private cabin until evaluation by a doctor to prevent transmission to others
- Minimize contact with other passengers and crew
- Wear protective clothing (such as masks, gloves, gowns and goggles.)
- Use infection-control measures (such as routing use of disinfectant.)

The intent of all of these techniques is to avoid contact with the blood or secretions of an infected patient. If a patient with Ebola dies, it is equally important to prevent direct contact with the body of the deceased person.

DENIAL OF ENTRY

Per 33 CFR 160.107, each District Commander or Captain of the Port, subject to recognized principles of international law, may deny entry into the navigable waters of the United States or to any place under the jurisdiction of the United States, and within the district or zone of that District Commander or Captain of the Port, to any vessel not in compliance with the provisions of the Port and Tanker Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1221-1232) or the regulations issued thereunder.

Vessel representatives are being queried to determine if any crewmembers exhibit any of the illness symptoms above. If a vessel is queried by Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur or Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles, a response to the query shall be submitted within 24 hours or the COTP may exercise denial of entry into the port.

The Coast Guard will continue to work with federal, state, and local port partners to ensure the safe and secure arrivals of vessels into U.S. ports. This notice will be posted on the HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil>. If you have any questions, please contact the MSU Port Arthur Operations Center at (409) 723-6500 or MSU Lake Charles at (337) 912-0073.



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