



16710
28 Feb 1996

From: Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District
To: Ninth District Officers-in-Charge Marine Inspection

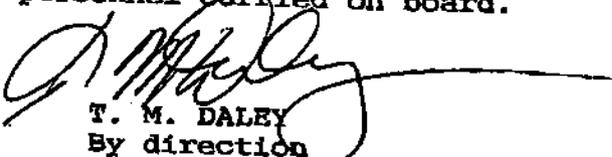
Subj: POLICY FOR ISSUANCE OF SINGLE VOYAGE LOAD LINE FOR
THE GREAT LAKES

Ref: (a) 46 CFR Part 42
(b) Marine Safety Manual, VOL IV, Chapter 6

1. The following information is provided as guidance to Officers-in-Charge of Marine Inspection in the Ninth Coast Guard District when handling requests for a single voyage load line.
2. Vessels of 79 feet and 150 gross tons or over must have a load line to operate on the Great Lakes outside a protected harbor with few exceptions. Load line regulations allow for issuance of a single voyage load line in "exceptional circumstances," such as changes in employment and trips to repair or drydock facilities. We have previously determined that changes in employment from one area to another are allowed as long as the vessel is employed in an area where a load line is not required.
3. In order for a vessel owner to obtain the load line for the single voyage from the Coast Guard, ~~a hull survey to verify the vessel's seaworthiness is necessary.~~ Under normal circumstances, the owners of these vessels should plan for the need for these single voyages and are requested to provide a two week advance notice to the Officer-in-Charge to schedule the examination of the vessel, although provisions will be made for exceptions to this request for inspection scheduling lead time. This policy is really designed to eliminate the crisis mode for scheduling of a Coast Guard Inspector once the initial examination of the barge has been completed for the season. ~~The examination is to check for seaworthiness through an external in water examination, along with an internal examination.~~ The internal examination also requires that the spaces be certified safe for workers by a NFPA Certified Marine Chemist or through our Ninth District Confined Space Entry Policy. ~~A check for navigation lights, vessel documentation (required) and arrangement of any deck load is also conducted.~~ The vessel is not allowed to carry any cargo or passengers, but may carry equipment intended to support the operation of the vessel.
4. Construction and dredge company operators are using the exception rule to make recurrent applications for single voyage authorization letters to move their vessels between job sites several times each year. These multiple trips are increasing the

Subj: POLICY FOR ISSUANCE OF SINGLE VOYAGE LOAD LINE FOR
THE GREAT LAKES

4. (Cont.) number of vessel visits on the part of marine inspectors. In order to reduce the number of visits to the vessels, and to put more of the focus on the owner, operator and licensed mariner to provide assurances to the Coast Guard that the vessel is seaworthy for the intended transit, an updated policy guidance for issuance of a single voyage load line is provided. The Coast Guard retains the responsibility for determining vessel eligibility for these single voyage load line authorizations, working with the owner/operator to ensure compliance with the policy.
5. Ninth District Officers-in-Charge of Marine Inspection will continue to administer the program in their zones. Under normal circumstances, two weeks before the first seasonal move of a vessel which requires a single voyage load line authorization letter, vessel owners will contact the nearest Coast Guard Marine Safety Office to schedule a hull examination. After the inspector verifies the vessel's current certificate of documentation and structural and watertight integrity, an authorization letter will be issued for the single voyage requested.
6. For subsequent job relocation trips during that same work season for the same vessel, the vessel owner/operator may survey the hull and verify the results on the Single Voyage Load Line Application Form, enclosure (1). This application form must be completed and signed by an individual who holds a valid Coast Guard-issued license. A copy of the license must be attached to the application. Upon satisfactory review of the application, the cognizant marine inspection office will issue another load line authorization letter.
7. c. Prior to the next work season, these same vessels must be inspected by the Coast Guard to reinstate the procedure for the vessel owner/operator to conduct the hull survey.
8. These authorization letters don't apply to vessels that work outside protected harbors. They are issued only for changing places of employment or trips to or from a drydock or repair facility, with no cargo or personnel carried on board.


T. M. DALEY
By direction

Encl: (1) Single Voyage Load Line Application Form w/cover ltr
(2) Decision Matrix on Load Line Requirements



16710
(Date)

(Contractor)
(Address)

Gentlemen:

Vessels of 79 feet and 150 gross tons or over must have a load line to operate on the Great Lakes outside a protected harbor. This requirement is based on the Coastwise Loadline Act of 1935. Load line regulations in 46 CFR Part 42 allow for issuance of a single voyage load line in "exceptional circumstances," such as changes of employment and trips to repair or drydock facilities. Construction and dredge company operators, however, are using this exception to make recurrent applications for single voyage authorization letters to move their vessels between job sites several times each year.

Prior to each one of these voyages, a hull survey is required to verify the vessel's seaworthiness. Because of the increased frequency of these surveys, we have streamlined the hull inspection process to make more efficient use of our limited personnel resources. We also envision the following procedure will enhance your operating schedule as well:

- a. Two weeks before the first seasonal move of a vessel which requires a single voyage load line authorization letter, contact the nearest Coast Guard Marine Safety Office to schedule a hull examination. After the inspector verifies the vessel's structural, watertight integrity and ensure current vessel documentation, an authorization letter will be issued for the single voyage requested.
- b. For subsequent job relocation trips during that same work season for the same vessel, you may survey the hull, and verify the results on the enclosed Single Voyage Load Line Application Form. Please note that this application form must be completed and signed by an individual who holds a valid Coast Guard-issued license. A copy of this license must be attached to the application. Upon satisfactory review of your application, the cognizant marine inspection office will issue another load line authorization letter.
- c. Prior to the next work season, these same vessels must be inspected by the Coast Guard to reinstate the above procedure.

These authorization letters don't apply to vessels that work outside protected harbors. They are issued only for changing places of employment or to/from a drydock or repair facility, with no cargo or personnel carried on board.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the cognizant Officer in Charge Marine Inspection or Marine Safety Detachment office.

Sincerely,

ENCLOSURE(1)

SINGLE VOYAGE LOAD LINE APPLICATION FORM

Applying Company's name and address: _____
Phone Number (____) _____ - _____

Applying vessel's name/Official Number: _____
Certificate of Documentation Expiration: _____

Last inspection by U.S. Coast Guard: Port _____ Date _____

Towing Vessel's name/Official Number: _____

Time/Date of Departure: _____ / _____ Departure Port: _____

Time/Date of Arrival: _____ / _____ Arrival Port: _____

Route Description: _____

Refuge Ports along intended route: _____

List other vessels in tow, if any: _____

Vessel hull examined and found watertight? YES / NO

Damage or temporary repairs noted during hull examination: (i.e. soft patches or shingles)

All Hull/deck opening closures properly gasketted and secured? YES / NO

If no, explain. _____

All on-deck equipment secured? YES / NO

If no, explain. _____

Other pertinent information about the vessel or voyage: _____

I certify that the vessel applying for this single voyage load line authorization letter will not carry cargo or persons on board. ___(initials)

The person conducting the vessel survey and completing this form holds a valid CG license: Port issued _____ Date issued _____ No. _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

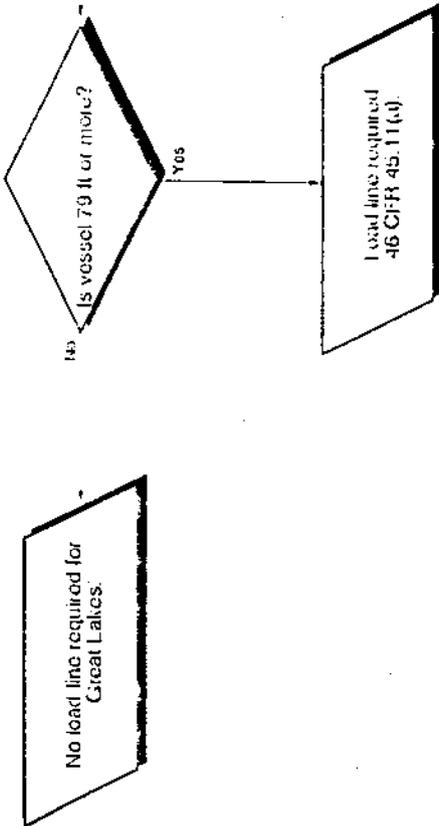
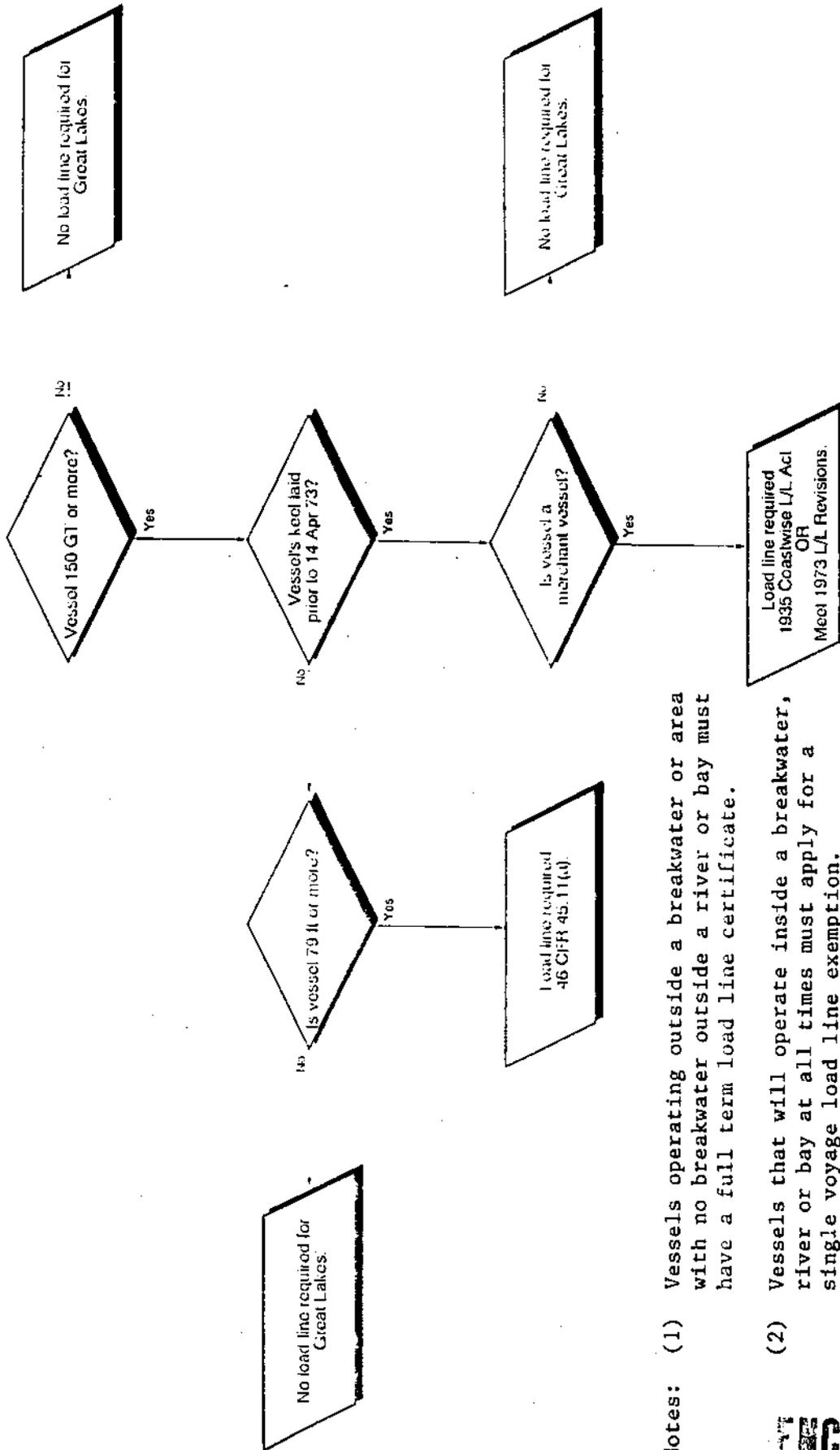
Title: _____ Date: _____ COPY OF LICENSE ATTACHED

Return application to:

Tel #:

Fax #:

46 CFR 45: GREAT LAKES LOAD LINE DECISION TREE



- Notes: (1) Vessels operating outside a breakwater or area with no breakwater outside a river or bay must have a full term load line certificate.
- (2) Vessels that will operate inside a breakwater, river or bay at all times must apply for a single voyage load line exemption.