



COAST GUARD
MARINE SAFETY OFFICE

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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 05-03

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Towing Vessels – Fire Suppression Systems and Voyage Planning

The U.S. Coast Guard had promulgated an interim rule requiring most U.S. towing vessels to fit fire suppression systems in their engine rooms and to not proceed on a trip or voyage before completing a plan for that trip or voyage. This interim rule can be found on-line at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/pdf/03-10421.pdf>.

The rule comes into effect on August 27, 2003. The following vessels are exempt from the new requirements: towing vessels that engage only on assistance towing, emergency or pollution response, fleet operations, or service in only a limited area.

Comments on the interim rule should be submitted by July 28, 2003. To make sure your comments do not enter the docket more than once, please submit them by only one of the following means: (1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington DC 20590-0001; (2) By delivery to Room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. The telephone number is (202) 366-9329; (3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at (202) 493-2251; or (4) Electronically through the web site for Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>. For further information or questions, contact LT Quincy Davis at (419) 418-6030.

Sincerely,

C. L. ROBERGE