



Marine Safety Center Technical Note

MTN 1-03
16715
May 5, 2003

Subj: Updated Guidance on Submitting T-Boat Plans to the Marine Safety Center

Ref: (a) Navigation and Inspection Circular 8-84, *Recommendations for the Submittal of Merchant Vessel Plans and Specifications*
(b) 46 CFR 177.202, *Plans and information required*
(c) 46 CFR 177.300, *Structural design*

1. Purpose: This Technical Note provides updated guidance to NVIC 8-84 and the plan submittal guidance in references (b) and (c) for all subchapter T vessels.

2. Discussion

a. Because workload priorities have shifted at Marine Safety Offices (MSOs) in response to increased homeland security demands, the Marine Safety Center (MSC) has been receiving increasing numbers of submittals for subchapter T vessels (T-boats) which were historically reviewed and approved at the local level. In order for MSC to provide the best customer service and expedite plan review by reducing the number of incomplete submissions, we ask the MSOs to continue managing both the T-boat projects and the expectations of the vessel owners or their representatives.

b. The MSC conducts plan review and provides guidance on issues of a technical nature; project management must continue to be the responsibility of the MSO and local plan review officer or attending marine inspector. Because resources and technical expertise at field offices varies, the MSC component of the plan review process also varies from vessel to vessel. The process can be expedited for all concerned if the plan review package is reviewed by the MSO for completeness prior to submission to the MSC, with particular notations or emphasis in areas of concern made by the MSO. This will properly maintain primary responsibility of project management at the field office, while focusing the technical resources of the MSC to best assist both the MSO and the plan submitter.

c. Project management includes providing direction to the Marine Safety Center and managing submitter expectations. The attending marine inspector must communicate, to both the vessel owners (or their representatives) and to the MSC, which plans will be reviewed by the MSC. In addition we ask marine inspectors to assist the MSC by providing general guidance to the owners on what is expected for each plan submittal.

3. Applicability: The guidelines provided in this Technical Note apply to all subchapter T vessel submissions to the Marine Safety Center.

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4. Action:

a. The MSC will distribute this MTN to all MSOs. The MSC will also create a link on its website (www.uscg.mil/hq/msc) for the T-boat Plan Review Guidance sheets, NVICs, and other information applicable to T-boat submitters.

b. The MSOs should provide submitters with enclosures (1) and (2) when directing them to send T-boat plans to the MSC for review. Enclosure (1) is a form letter from the MSC to vessel owners or their representatives, briefly describing the function of the MSC and the plan review process, and providing addresses and contact information. Enclosure (2) contains a checklist of all T-boat Plan Review Guidance. The MSO should use this checklist to indicate which items vessel owners must submit to the MSC, and, if necessary, provide the associated Plan Review Guidance sheets to ensure that they are aware of all plans, calculations, and supporting information required. The checklist should be submitted to the Marine Safety Center with the first set of plans, either by the MSO or the submitter.

c. The Marine Safety Center continues to support the Marine Safety Offices, and will review any technical plans, calculations, or supporting information upon request. Requests for review outside the scope of this MTN can be directed to the branch chiefs.


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Encl: (1) Letter to Submitter
(2) Plan Review Checklist