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UNCLAS //N16710//

SUBJ: INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR ISSUING SAFE MANNING
DOCUMENTATION TO ADDRESS THE CANADIAN PERSONNEL REGULATIONS
ON U.S. VESSELS

A. COMDTINST M16000.8B, Draft CH-1 to the Marine Safety
Manual (MSM), Volume III, Marine Industry Personnel

B. Federal Register Notice, Docket No. USCG-2013-0240

1. This message provides interim guidance for preparing and
issuing safe manning documentation, for vessels enroute to
a Canadian port or place, to comply with the Canadian
Marine Personnel Regulations.

2. Discussion. Enforcement of the Canadian Marine Personnel
Regulations (MPR) for U.S. documented vessels, will take
effect on 26 October 2013. CG-5PC published Marine Safety
Information Bulletin (MSIB) 021-12 and supplemental answers
to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to provide information
and awareness on the mandatory Canadian requirements
applicable to all U.S. documented vessels (unless otherwise
exempted) operating in Canadian waters, when enroute to a
Canadian port or place. These regulations will potentially
have significant impact to towing and small passenger
vessels. To better prepare for the implementation of the
Canadian MPR, owners/operators of uninspected documented
U.S. vessels are encouraged to apply for voluntary safe
manning documentation (SMD/SML).

3.a. Action. Officers in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI)
should encourage and be prepared to issue safe manning
documentation at the request of owners/operators.
Amplifying information on the issuance of safe manning
documentation has been incorporated in reference (A), which
was recently made available for public comment in reference
(B). As an interim measure to facilitate Port State
Control interface, OCMI's should reference Chapter 22
Sections B.2.d.(2)(b) and B.4.b of reference (A) for
additional guidance. Specifically, when preparing safe
manning documentation, the OCMI should follow the sample
formats provided in the Annex of reference (A). For
certain vessels of less than 200 GRT on voyages to Canada,
the Certificate of Inspection or safe manning documentation
may be endorsed: "Chief Engineer, Assistant Engineers, or
Designated Duty Engineers not required other than on

voyages to Canada in accordance with Division 4 of the Canadian Marine Personnel Regulations."

3.b. Although the Canadian MPR calls for certification in accordance with the International Convention of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), Transport Canada and the U.S. Coast Guard have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the mutual recognition of personnel licensure and certification applicable to each nation's trading vessels while trading in the domestic waters of either the United States or Canada. This is only applicable to vessels operating exclusively between the United States and Canada. For vessels trading exclusively between the United States and Canada, the "STCW Grade/Capacity" and "STCW Regulation" fields on the safe manning documentation may be omitted as "N/A" if the "Trading Area" is limited to "Inland U.S./Canada," "Near-Coastal U.S./Canada," or "Great Lakes" exclusively.

3.c. To receive safe manning documentation endorsed for Periodically Unattended Machinery Space (PUMS), operators may present the OCMI with a Certificate of Class appropriately endorsed for unattended machinery status or meet the U.S. requirements (e.g., 46 CFR Part 62). Alternatively, as Part 62 and MSM Volume III Chapter 25 are not necessarily applicable to uninspected vessels, NVIC 1-78 may be used to establish PUMS.

3.d. Uninspected vessels which are not subject to the specific requirements of SOLAS Chapter V/14 are encouraged to request a permissive safe manning letter (SML) to document flag-state approval of the vessel's manning level. Should a SML be issued in lieu of a SMD, it should be crafted to adequately reflect the conditions emphasized in this message as appropriate.

4. Questions concerning this notice may be directed to LT Cory Heard, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Commandant (CG-CVC) at 202-372-1208.

5. Capt Kyle McAvoy, Chief, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, sends.

6. Internet release is authorized.

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