

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard**



United States Coast Guard
Finance Center

1430A Kristina Way
Chesapeake, VA 23326
Staff Symbol:
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7000
27 February 2024

VESSEL INSPECTION USER FEE NOTIFICATION AND BILLING

Dear Sir or Madam:

Due to a technical issue encountered with the migration to a new financial system, the USCG Finance Center was unable to generate the **Vessel Inspection User Fee Notification Letters** for 14 months. When the USCG returned to mailing bills, they **included interest, penalties, and administrative (IPA) charges** that the Agency has levied to delinquent accounts as was the system design and legacy procedure. After additional review, and considering the lack of notice caused by the system issues, **the USCG will now waive IPA charges until all billing and accounting records are up to date.** This change has already been implemented for notices released in 2024, and will be retroactively applied to notices issued since transition to the new system in late 2021.

If payments have been received which include IPA payments, the **IPA will be credited to your account.** It will take several months for USCG to ensure all accounts are properly credited, and while that work is on-going, new notices may be released without yet reflecting a prior credit. **Refunds can be issued for any paid IPA charges** by making a request through the USCG Finance Center Customer Service Team.

The USCG is still not up to date with mailing notification letters, so upcoming Vessel Inspection User Fee Notification Letters are delayed beyond our target 45-day advance notice. We anticipate that the billing backlog will be resolved in March 2024.

Finally, the USCG vessel inspectors have waived the historical Certificate of Inspection (COI) payment verification since the start of the FSMS transition. **The USCG plans to return to verifying COI payment before inspections starting in June of this year.**

If you previously submitted payment for your Vessel Inspection User Fee and have any questions, please contact the USCG Finance Center Customer Service Team at 1-800-941-3337 or commercial at 757-523-6940. For additional information on how to remit payments, visit our website at www.uscg.mil/fincen/VIF/.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. V. Danish".

M. V. DANISH

Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Finance Center
Captain, United States Coast Guard