



ANTIFOULING SYSTEMS

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According to the CG-CVC Policy Letter #12-08 dated 15 October 2012, the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships (AFS Convention) was adopted by the International Maritime Organization “to prohibit the use of harmful organotins in anti-fouling paints used on ships and to establish a mechanism to prevent the potential future use of other harmful substances in anti-fouling systems.

“Starting on November 21, 2012, U.S flagged vessels, wherever located, and foreign flagged vessels in the internal waters of the United States, in any port, shipyard, offshore terminal, or other place in the United States, must comply with the applicable portions of the AFS Convention” as outlined in the Policy Letter document.

The Policy Letter goes on to say, “[f]or applicable U.S. vessels, the Coast Guard or Recognized Classification Society (RCS), will verify compliance with the provisions of the AFS Convention and issue [International Anti-fouling Systems] IAFS Certificates and...[Record of Anti-fouling Systems]...ROAFS during routine scheduled inspections...

The Policy Letter is guidance and is not intended as a substitute for applicable legal requirements. The Letter suggests that in egregious cases of non-compliance with the AFS Convention, the Captain of the Port may wish to pursue a civil penalty against the offending vessel.