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## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 05-09

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### **Marine Safety Alert 02-09 for Compact Fluorescent Lights**

This Safety Alert serves to inform the maritime industry that energy saving Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL) or lighting, sometimes known as radio frequency (RF) lighting devices may interfere with certain communications equipment. CFLs employ a RF lighting device to excite a gas inside a bulb in order to produce light.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recognized the need for and adopted rules to control the harmful interference to radio communications services from these devices. During the rulemaking process the Coast Guard provided comments and recommended an advisory label for CFLs / RF lighting devices warning users about potential interference to communication services and particularly with respect to devices capable of producing emissions in the 0.45-30 MHz band. As a result, the FCC required manufacturers of CFLs to provide an advisory statement, either on the product packaging or with other user documentation, similar to the following: "This product may cause interference to radio communications and should not be installed near maritime safety communications equipment or other critical navigation or communication equipment operating between 0.45-30 MHz."

The Coast Guard has learned that CFLs have been installed on the navigation bridges of vessels and in other places capable of causing radio communications interference. Marine inspectors, vessel owners and operators **should be aware** of this potential safety hazard and take proper action as needed.

This safety alert is provided for informational purposes only and does not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational or material requirement. It was developed by the Office of Domestic Vessel Activities (CG-5431), United States Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC. and distributed by the Office of Investigations and Analysis: <http://marineinvestigations.us>

If you have any questions, please contact LCDR Prudencio Tubalado at +81 425-52 2511 ext 58405 or via e-mail at [Prudencio.M.Tubalado@uscg.mil](mailto:Prudencio.M.Tubalado@uscg.mil).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerald M. Swanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Gerald M. Swanson  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection