

Coast Guard to host forum for uninspected passenger vessel operators of Alaskan rivers and lakes

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Coast Guard Sector Anchorage will hold a public forum to discuss recent changes to the standards for Restricted Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel endorsements in Anchorage April 10.

The meeting will occur at 1pm in Conference Room C in the Federal Building Annex (Social Security Administration) at 222 West 8th Avenue.

Sector Anchorage announced changes to the Restricted Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel standards in Alaska in Marine Safety Information Bulletin 02-15 January 13, 2015. A copy of the Marine Safety Information Bulletin is available on Sector's website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d17/sectoranchorage/msib.asp>.

Merchant Mariner Credentials are required for operators of all passenger vessels on federally navigable waterways. Restricted Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel endorsements require less experience and testing than unrestricted Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel endorsements but still ensure a basic level of competence for operators carrying a limited number of passengers on inland lakes and rivers.

Sector Anchorage plans to release an updated version of the Marine Safety Information Bulletin. Key changes will include: (1) all current and recently expired holders of Restricted OUPV endorsements will be able to renew indefinitely under the old terms; (2) a "body of water" will be defined to include a group of contiguous rivers and lakes, not as a single named lake or river; (3) certain new applicants will need to have 90 days of service on each body of water. These changes and more will be topics of discussion at the April meeting.

Sector Anchorage will hold a second forum on this topic in June in Dillingham. The exact date has not yet been determined.

Those wishing to attend should RSVP to Lt. Brierley Ostrander at brierley.k.ostrander@uscg.mil. Those who cannot travel to the meeting are welcome to call in at or 1-855-475-2447, pass-code 25180577#.

What: Public Forum to discuss recent changes to the standards for Restricted Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel endorsements

When: April 10 at 1pm

Where: Conference Room C, Federal Building Annex (Social Security Administration,) 222 West 8th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska.

POC: Lt. Brierley Ostrander at brierley.k.ostrander@uscg.mil, 907-428-4164.