

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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16710/Electronic Publications
D8(dp) Policy Ltr 02-2010
JUN 15 2010

MEMORANDUM

J. S. Paradis
From: CAPT J. S. Paradis
CCGD8 (dp)

To: Distribution

Subj: NAVIGATION PUBLICATIONS CARRIED IN ELECTRONIC FORM ONBOARD
TOWING VESSELS

Ref: (a) 33 CFR 164.72(b)(2)
(b) 33 CFR 161.4

1. **PURPOSE:** In accordance with reference (a), this policy letter clarifies requirements for the carriage of navigation publications by towing vessels of 12 meters (39.4 feet) or more in length operating on the navigable waters of the Eighth District, unless exempted by 33 CFR 164.01 (b). This policy guidance is subject to revision by future promulgation of towing vessel regulations in Subchapter M, which are currently under development.

2. **DISCUSSION:**

- a. Towing vessels subject to references (a) and (b) are required to have on board a currently corrected edition (or an applicable currently corrected extract) of each of the following publications:
 - U.S. Coast Guard Light List
 - Local Notice to Mariners
 - Tide-current or river-current tables
 - U.S. Coast Pilot
 - VTS Rules
- b. This requires a towing vessel to carry a large amount of paperwork on board that is readily accessible. However, the use of computers for managing paperwork is prevalent onboard towing vessels. Utilizing a computer to carry electronic navigation publications onboard saves space and allows for easy retrieval of above listed general publications.

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3. **ACTION:**

- a. Until promulgation of Subchapter M and/or other regulatory guidance, towing vessels may maintain navigation publications listed above solely in electronic form that are readily accessible by the vessel's crew, preferably in the pilot house. A backup should be provided in the event the primary electronic form becomes inoperable. The backup may be a second computer on a different circuit, paper copies, etc.
- b. All Eighth District OCMI's shall implement this guidance and disseminate to owners and operators of towing vessels operating within the Eighth District.
- c. Currently, it is not known what type of format for general publications will be acceptable when Subchapter M is promulgated and it is advised that this point needs to be made clear to all stakeholders. Therefore, what is acceptable now may not be acceptable when Subchapter M is promulgated.

4. **POINTS OF CONTACT:** My point of contact for this policy letter is Mr. Michael D. White at (504) 671-2264 or email to michael.d.white2@uscg.mil.

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