



Homeland
Security

U.S. COAST GUARD

Sector Upper
Mississippi River



Marine Safety Information Bulletin #01-10

This bulletin is used purely for informational purposes to assist the maritime community within the Sector upper Mississippi River. Its purpose is to advise relevant parties of emerging information & situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System as well as facilitates cooperation among the involved parties regarding actions that we may be taking and/or that you may need to employ in the interest of safety/security.

**TOWING VESSEL BRIDGING PROGRAM (TVBP)
ANNOUNCEMENT
January 25, 2010**

A significant regulatory project is currently underway that will require the majority of commercial towing vessels to be inspected by the Coast Guard. In the period between the current and future state of towing vessel safety oversight, a Towing Vessel Bridging Program was initiated to ease the transition and ensure that both the Coast Guard and the towing vessel industry are informed and prepared to meet the new requirements to be finalized in Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter M.

The Coast Guard will accomplish this goal by enhancing, improving, and increasing interactions with the towing vessel industry, and by acclimating all involved with the procedures, policy, requirements and administration of existing and, as implementation draws closer, new Subchapter M regulations. During this period of transition, the Coast Guard is conducting extensive industry outreach, properly training our people, and has begun examining towing vessels that could be inspected under Subchapter M. To ensure a successful towing vessel examination program, the Coast Guard encourages participation in the Industry Initiated Examinations to determine compliance with existing 46 CFR Subchapter B and C requirements.

Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri is committed to continuing our industry outreach efforts and is fully prepared to conduct Industry Initiated Examinations upon request. To schedule an examination with Sector Upper Mississippi River, or if you have any questions regarding the Towing Vessel Bridging Program, please contact CWO2 Scott VinCamp at (314) 269-2526 or at STL-DG-SECUMR-TOWING@uscg.mil.

Additionally, the Coast Guard has posted information regarding all aspects of this program on the Coast Guard Homeport website. To access this information, please go to:

<http://homeport.uscg.mil>>Domestic Vessels>Towing Vessels

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