



Homeland
Security

U.S. COAST GUARD
Sector Upper
Mississippi River



Marine Safety Information Bulletin #08-06

This bulletin is used purely for informational purposes to assist the maritime community within the Sector Upper Mississippi River Area of Responsibility. 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.

NOTICE; REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOMESTIC VESSEL PASSENGER WEIGHTS-VOLUNTARY INTERIM MEASURES

June 2, 2006

1. On 26 April 2006, the U.S. Coast Guard published a Notice in the Federal Register regarding the implementation of voluntary interim measures for certain domestic vessels to account for increased passenger and vessel weight when determining the number of passengers permitted. The Coast Guard is in the process of preparing a rule that would amend its regulations to address the stability issues caused by increases in passenger and vessel weights.
2. Therefore, in order to safeguard the public, the Coast Guard has determined that it would be prudent for owners and operators of all small passenger vessels for which passenger weight is a limiting stability factor to voluntarily re-evaluate the passenger capacity for their vessels, conscientiously monitor the wind and wave conditions, and notify the local Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections if any significant structural or equipment changes have been made to the vessel since the stability was evaluated by the owner or operator and approved by the Coast Guard.
3. For additional information regarding this notice and the specific Coast Guard recommendations regarding stability and safe vessel operation, the Federal Register Notice can be accessed on the internet at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/regs/publications.html> , docket number (USCG-2005-22732).
4. Any questions regarding this information bulletin may be addressed to the Prevention Department, Sector UMR at (314) 269-2500, ext. 2686.

S. E. ENGLEBERT
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Captain of the Port