

# Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)



## Fact Sheet

1. **The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) is a Federal advisory committee under 5 U.S.C. App. (Pub. L. 92-463). It was established under authority of 33 U.S.C. 1231a and advises the Secretary of Homeland Security on matters relating to shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. This advice also assists the Coast Guard in formulating the position of the United States regarding the towing industry in advance of International Maritime Organization meetings.**
2. **The Committee meets at least twice a year typically in cities with large towing centers of commerce and populated by high concentrations of towing industry and related businesses.**
3. **There are 18 members of TSAC. They are nominated by the Coast Guard and are appointed by the Secretary. The membership of TSAC include:**
  - **7 members representing the Barge and Towing industry (reflecting a regional geographical balance);**
  - **1 member representing the Offshore Mineral and Oil Supply Vessel industry;**
  - **1 member representing holders of active licensed Masters or Pilots of towing vessels with experience on the Western Rivers and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.**
  - **1 member representing the holders of active licensed Masters of towing vessels in offshore service.**
  - **1 member representing Masters who are active ship-docking or harbor towing vessel.**
  - **1 member representing licensed or unlicensed towing vessel engineers with formal training and experience.**
  - **2 members each representing the following sectors:**
    - **Shippers (of whom one will be engaged in the shipment of oil or hazardous materials by barge);**
    - **Port District Authorities or Terminal Operators;**
    - **The General Public.**
4. **Appointment to TSAC is for three years. Members of TSAC may be re-nominated by the Coast Guard based upon member activity and productivity, unique skills and abilities or based upon the needs of TSAC.**

5. TSAC announcements for new members occur every year. Typically 4-6 positions are announced. Positions are highly sought with application rates of 5 times that of position vacancies.
6. Since its inception, TSAC has provided 144 separate recommendations to the Coast Guard to improve safety the safety of towing vessels, the waterways upon which they operate and to strengthen the maritime mass-transportation system.
7. TSAC has completed three Task Statements within the past year. The recommendations from these Task Statements have positively impacted the current towing vessel rulemaking as well as licensing, manning and vessel operations.
8. TSAC is currently engaged with seven Task Statements:
  - TASK 12-01, “Recommendations for the Prevention of Towing Vessel Crewmember Falls Overboard.”
  - TASK 12-02, “Review and Recommendations for the Revision of NVIC 1-95, Voluntary Training Standards for Entry-Level Personnel on Towing Industry Vessels.”
  - TASK 12-03, “Recommendations for the Enhancement of Towing Vessel Stability.”
  - TASK 12-04 “Recommendations for Safety Standards of Portable Facility Vapor Control Systems Used for Marine Operations.”
  - TASK 12-05 “Recommendations to Enhance Fire Prevention and Containment Aboard Towing Vessels.”
  - TASK 13-01 “Automatic Identification System Encoding for Towing Vessels”
  - TASK 13-02 “Recommendations Regarding Manning of Inspected Towing Vessels”

Any questions or concerns regarding TSAC may be addressed to:

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