

§ 156.300

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- (b) The proximity of the zone to:
- (1) Shipping lanes;
  - (2) Vessel traffic schemes or vessel separation systems;
  - (3) Anchorages;
  - (4) Fixed structures;
  - (5) Designated marine sanctuaries;
  - (6) Commercial and recreational fishing areas;
  - (7) Environmentally sensitive areas; and
  - (8) Designated units of the National Park System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National Wilderness Preservation System, properties included on the National Register of Historic Places and National Registry of Natural Landmarks, and National Wildlife Refuge System.

26°30'00", 93°00'00", and thence to the point of beginning.

(NAD 83)

(b) *Gulfmex No. 2—lightering zone.* This lightering zone and the geographic area for this zone are coterminous and consist of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<i>Latitude N.</i>	<i>Longitude W.</i>
27°53'00",	89°00'00", thence to
27°53'00",	91°30'00", thence to
26°30'00",	91°30'00", thence to
26°30'00",	89°00'00", and thence to the point of beginning.

(NAD 83)

(c) *Offshore Pascagoula No. 2—lightering zone.* This lightering zone and the geographic area for this zone are coterminous and consist of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<i>Latitude N.</i>	<i>Longitude W.</i>
29°20'00",	87°00'00", thence to
29°12'00",	87°45'00", thence to
28°39'00",	88°00'00", thence to
28°00'00",	88°00'00", thence to
28°00'00",	87°00'00", and thence to the point of beginning.

(NAD 83)

(d) *South Sabine Point—lightering zone.* This lightering zone and the geographic area for this zone are coterminous and consist of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<i>Latitude N.</i>	<i>Longitude W.</i>
28°30'00",	92°38'00", thence to
28°44'00",	93°24'00", thence to
28°33'00",	94°00'00", thence to
28°18'00",	94°00'00", thence to
28°18'00",	92°38'00", and thence to the point of beginning.

(NAD 83)

**Subpart C—Lightering Zones and Operational Requirements for the Gulf of Mexico**

SOURCE: CGD 93-081, 60 FR 45017, Aug. 29, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 156.300 Designated lightering zones.**

The following lightering zones are designated in the Gulf of Mexico and are more than 60 miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured:

(a) *Southtex—lightering zone.* This lightering zone and the geographic area for this zone are coterminous and consist of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<i>Latitude N.</i>	<i>Longitude W.</i>
27°40'00",	93°00'00", thence to
27°40'00",	94°35'00", thence to
28°06'30",	94°35'00", thence to
27°21'00",	96°00'00", thence to
26°30'00",	96°00'00", thence to

**§ 156.310 Prohibited areas.**

Lightering operations are prohibited within the following areas in the Gulf of Mexico:

(a) *Claypile—prohibited area.* This prohibited area consists of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<i>Latitude N.</i>	<i>Longitude W.</i>
28°15'00",	94°35'00", thence to

27°40'00",	94°35'00", thence to
27°40'00",	94°00'00", thence to
28°33'00",	94°00'00", and thence
	to the point of be-
	ginning.

(NAD 83)

(b) *Flower Garden—prohibited area.* This prohibited area consists of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<i>Latitude N.</i>	<i>Longitude W.</i>
27°40'00",	94°00'00", thence to
28°18'00",	94°00'00", thence to
28°18'00",	92°38'00", thence to
28°30'00",	92°38'00", thence to
28°15'00",	91°30'00", thence to
27°40'00",	91°30'00", and thence
	to the point of be-
	ginning.

(NAD 83)

(c) *Ewing—prohibited area.* This prohibited area consists of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<i>Latitude N.</i>	<i>Longitude W.</i>
27°53'00",	91°30'00", thence to
28°15'00",	91°30'00", thence to
28°15'00",	90°10'00", thence to
27°53'00",	90°10'00", and thence
	to the point of be-
	ginning.

(NAD 83)

#### § 156.320 Maximum operating conditions.

Unless otherwise specified, the maximum operating conditions in this section apply to tank vessels operating within the lightering zones designated in this subpart.

(a) A tank vessel shall not attempt to moor alongside another vessel when either of the following conditions exist:

- (1) The wind velocity is 56 km/hr (30 knots) or more; or
- (2) The wave height is 3 meters (10 feet) or more.

(b) Cargo transfer operations shall cease and transfer hoses shall be drained when—

- (1) The wind velocity exceeds 82 km/hr (44 knots); or
- (2) Wave heights exceed 5 meters (16 feet).

#### § 156.330 Operations.

(a) Unless otherwise specified in this subpart, or when otherwise authorized by the cognizant Captain of the Port

(COTP) or District Commander, the master of a vessel lightering in a zone designated in this subpart shall ensure that all officers and appropriate members of the crew are familiar with the guidelines in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section and that the requirements of paragraphs (d) through (l) of this section are complied with.

(b) Lightering operations should be conducted in accordance with the Oil Companies International Marine Forum Ship to Ship Transfer Guide (Petroleum), Second Edition, 1988, to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) Helicopter operations should be conducted in accordance with the International Chamber of Shipping Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations, Third Edition, 1989, to the maximum extent practicable.

(d) The vessel to be lightered shall make a voice warning prior to the commencement of lightering activities via channel 13 VHF and 2182 Khz. The voice warning shall include:

- (1) The names of the vessels involved;
- (2) The vessels' geographical positions and general headings;
- (3) A description of the operations;
- (4) The expected time of commencement and duration of the operation; and
- (5) Request for wide berth.

(e) In the event of a communications failure between the lightering vessels or the respective persons-in-charge of the transfer, or an equipment failure affecting the vessel's cargo handling capability or ship's maneuverability, the affected vessel shall suspend lightering activities and shall sound at least five short, rapid blasts on the vessel's whistle. Lightering activities shall remain suspended until corrective action has been completed.

(f) No vessel involved in a lightering operation may open its cargo system until the servicing vessel is securely moored alongside the vessel to be lightered.

(g) If any vessel not involved in the lightering operation or support activities approaches within 100 meters of vessels engaged in lightering, the vessel engaged in lightering shall warn the approaching vessel by sounding a loud hailer, ship's whistle, or any other appropriate means.