

## Coast Guard, DHS

## § 15.401

Coast Guard District Commander is in charge of an inspection zone.

*Operate, operating, or operation*, as applied to vessels, refers to a vessel any-time passengers are embarked whether the vessel is underway, at anchor, made fast to shore, or aground.

*Pilotage waters* means the navigable waters of the United States, including all inland waters and offshore waters to a distance of three nautical miles from the baseline from which the Territorial Sea is measured.

*Staff officer* means a person who holds a certificate of registry in the staff department such as a purser, a medical doctor or professional nurse, which is issued by the Coast Guard.

*Self-Propelled* has the same meaning as the terms propelled by *machinery* and mechanically propelled. This term would also include vessels fitted with both sails and mechanical propulsion.

*Tank barge* means a non-self-propelled tank vessel.

*Tank vessel* means a vessel that is constructed or adapted to carry, or that carries, oil or hazardous material in bulk as cargo or cargo residue.

*Tankship* means any tank vessel constructed or adapted primarily to carry oil or hazardous material in bulk as cargo or cargo residue and propelled by power or sail.

*Transfer* means any movement of dangerous liquid or liquefied gas as cargo in bulk or as cargo residue to, from, or within a vessel by means of pumping, gravitation, or displacement. Section 13.127 of this chapter describes what qualifies as participation in a creditable transfer.

*Underway* means that a vessel is not at anchor, made fast to the shore, or aground.

(b) The following categories of licensed individuals are established in part 10 of this chapter. When used in this part, the following terms mean an individual holding a valid license and/or endorsement to serve in that capacity issued under part 10 of this chapter.

- (1) Master;
- (2) Mate;
- (3) Pilot;
- (4) Engineer;
- (5) Radio officer;
- (6) Operator of uninspected passenger vessels;

(7) Offshore installation manager (OIM);

(8) Barge supervisor (BS);  
(9) Ballast control operator (BCO);  
and

(10) [Reserved]  
(11) GMDSS radio operator.

(c) The following ratings are established in part 12 of this chapter. When used in this part, terms for the ratings identify persons holding valid merchant mariners' documents for service in the ratings issued under that part:

- (1) Able seaman.
- (2) Ordinary seaman.
- (3) Qualified member of the engine department.
- (4) Lifeboatman.
- (5) Wiper.
- (6) Steward's department (F.H.).
- (7) GMDSS At-sea Maintainer.

(d) The following ratings are established in part 13 of this chapter. When used in this part, the terms for the ratings identify persons holding valid merchant mariners' documents for service in the ratings issued under that part:

- (1) Tankerman-PIC.
- (2) Tankerman-PIC (Barge).
- (3) Restricted Tankerman-PIC.
- (4) Restricted Tankerman-PIC (Barge).
- (5) Tankerman-Assistant.
- (6) Tankerman-Engineer.

[CGD 81-059 and CGD 81-059a, 52 FR 38623 and 38670, Oct. 16, 1987, as amended by CGD 87-017, 53 FR 18562, May 24, 1988; CGD 81-059, 54 FR 149, Jan. 4, 1989; CGD 81-059a, 55 FR 14805, Apr. 18, 1990; CGD 84-060, 59 FR 4841, Feb. 2, 1994; CGD 79-116, 60 FR 17154, Apr. 4, 1995; CGD 84-060, 60 FR 20652, Apr. 27, 1995; CGD 79-116, 62 FR 25135, May 8, 1997; CGD 95-062, 62 FR 34539, June 26, 1997; USCG-1999-6224, 64 FR 63235, Nov. 19, 1999; USCG 1999-6224, Oct. 27, 2000; USCG-1999-5040, 67 FR 34767, May 15, 2002]

### Subpart C—Manning Requirements; All Vessels

#### § 15.401 Employment and service with-in restrictions of license or document.

A person may not employ or engage an individual, and an individual may not serve, in a position in which an individual is required by law or regulation to hold a license, certificate of

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registry, or merchant mariner's document, unless the individual holds a valid license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document, as appropriate, authorizing service in the capacity in which the individual is engaged or employed and the individual serves within any restrictions placed on the license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document.

[CGD 81-059, 54 FR 149, Jan. 4, 1989]

### § 15.405 Familiarity with vessel characteristics.

Each licensed, registered, or certificated individual must become familiar with the relevant characteristics of the vessel on which engaged prior to assuming his or her duties. As appropriate, these include but are not limited to: general arrangement of the vessel; maneuvering characteristics; proper operation of the installed navigation equipment; firefighting and life-saving equipment; stability and loading characteristics; emergency duties; and main propulsion and auxiliary machinery, including steering gear systems and controls.

### § 15.410 Licensed individuals for assistance towing vessels.

Every assistance towing vessel must be under the direction and control of a licensed individual authorized to engage in assistance towing under the provisions of 46 CFR 10.482.

[CGD 87-017, 53 FR 18562, May 24, 1988]

## Subpart D—Manning Requirements; Inspected Vessels

### § 15.501 Certificate of inspection.

(a) The certificate of inspection (COI) issued by an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI), to a vessel required to be inspected under 46 U.S.C. 3301 specifies the minimum complement of officers and crew necessary for the safe operation of the vessel.

(b) The manning requirements for a particular vessel are determined by the OCMI after consideration of the applicable laws, the regulations in this part, and all other factors involved, such as: Emergency situations, size and type of vessel, installed equipment, proposed routes of operation including frequency

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of port calls, cargo carried, type of service in which employed, degree of automation, use of labor saving devices, and the organizational structure of the vessel.

[CGD 81-059, 52 FR 38652, Oct. 16, 1987, as amended at CGD 81-059, 54 FR 149, Jan. 4, 1989]

### § 15.505 Changes in the certificate of inspection.

All requests for changes in manning as indicated on the certificate of inspection must be made to the OCMI who last issued the certificate of inspection, unless the request is made in conjunction with an inspection for certification, in which case the request should be addressed to the OCMI conducting the inspection.

### § 15.510 Right of appeal.

Any person directly affected by a decision or action taken under this part, by or on behalf of the Coast Guard, may appeal therefrom in accordance with subpart 1.03 of this chapter.

[CGD 88-033, 54 FR 50380, Dec. 6, 1989]

### § 15.515 Compliance with certificate of inspection.

(a) Except as provided by § 15.725, no vessel may be operated unless it has in its service and on board, the complement required by the certificate of inspection.

(b) Any vessel subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. 3301 must, while on a voyage, be under the direction and control of an individual who holds an appropriate license issued by the Coast Guard. For the purposes of this paragraph:

(1) A voyage is the period of time necessary to transit from the port of departure to the final port of arrival.

(2) A port does not include an Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) facility as defined in 33 CFR part 140.

[CGD 81-059, 52 FR 38652, Oct. 16, 1987, as amended at USCG-2004-18884, 69 FR 58343, Sept. 30, 2004]

### § 15.520 Mobile offshore drilling units.

(a) The requirements in this section for mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs) supplement other requirements in this part.