

**§ 138.65**

**33 CFR Ch. I (7–1–05 Edition)**

(d) If, before the issuance of a Certificate, the applicant becomes aware of a change in any of the facts contained in the application or supporting documentation, the applicant shall, within five business days of becoming aware of the change, notify the Director, NPFC, in writing, of the change.

**§ 138.65 Issuance and carriage of Certificates.**

Upon the satisfactory demonstration of financial responsibility and payment of fees, the Director, NPFC, issues a Vessel Certificate of Financial Responsibility (Water Pollution), the original of which (except as provided in §§ 138.90 (a) and (b) and 138.110(f)) is to be carried aboard the vessel covered by the Certificate. The carriage of a valid Certificate or authorized copy indicates compliance with these regulations. Failure to carry a valid Certificate or authorized copy subjects the vessel to enforcement action, except where a Certificate is removed temporarily from a vessel for inspection by a United States Government official.

**§ 138.70 Renewal of Certificates.**

(a) An operator shall file a written application for the renewal of a Certificate at least 21 days, but not earlier than 90 days, before the expiration date of the Certificate. Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, a letter may be used for this purpose. The Director, NPFC, may waive this 21-day requirement.

(b) The applicant shall identify in the renewal application any changes which have occurred since the original application for a Certificate was filed, and set forth the correct information in full.

(c) An applicant that applies for the first time for a Certificate issued under this part to replace a Certificate issued under part 130 of this chapter shall submit an application form illustrated in Appendix A of this part. An applicant is not required to pay an application fee under § 138.130(c) for this first-time application.

**§ 138.80 Financial responsibility, how established.**

(a) *General.* In addition to submitting an application and fees, an applicant

shall submit, or cause to be submitted, evidence of financial responsibility in an amount determined under § 138.80(f). A guarantor may submit directly to the Director, NPFC, the evidence of financial responsibility.

(b) *Methods.* An applicant shall establish evidence of financial responsibility by one or more of the following methods:

(1) *Insurance.* By filing with the Director, NPFC, an insurance guaranty form CG-5586, illustrated in Appendix B of this part (or, when applying for a Master Certificate, a master insurance guaranty form CG-5586-1, illustrated in Appendix C of this part), executed by not more than four insurers that have been found acceptable by and remain acceptable to the Director, NPFC, for purposes of this part.

(2) *Surety bond.* By filing with the Director, NPFC, a surety bond guaranty form CG-5586-2, illustrated in Appendix D of this part, executed by not more than 10 acceptable surety companies certified by the United States Department of the Treasury with respect to the issuance of Federal bonds in the maximum penal sum of each bond to be issued under this part.

(3) *Self-insurance.* By filing the financial statements specified in paragraph (b)(3)(i) of this section for the applicant's last fiscal year preceding the date of application and by demonstrating that the applicant maintains, in the United States, working capital and net worth each in amounts equal to or greater than the total applicable amount calculated in accordance with § 138.80(f), based on a vessel carrying hazardous substances as cargo. As used in this paragraph, *working capital* means the amount of current assets located in the United States, less all current liabilities anywhere in the world; and *net worth* means the amount of all assets located in the United States, less all liabilities anywhere in the world. After the initial submission, for each of the applicant's fiscal years, the applicant or certificant shall submit statements as follows:

(i) *Initial and annual submissions.* An applicant or certificant shall submit

annual, current, and audited non-consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and audited by an independent Certified Public Accountant. These financial statements must be audited in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. These financial statements must be accompanied by an additional statement from the Treasurer (or equivalent official) of the applicant or certificant certifying both the amount of current assets and the amount of total assets included in the accompanying balance sheet, which are located in the United States. If the financial statements cannot be submitted in non-consolidated form, a consolidated statement may be submitted if accompanied by an additional statement prepared by the same Certified Public Accountant, verifying the amount by which the applicant's or certificant's—

(A) Total assets, located in the United States, exceed its total (*i.e.*, worldwide) liabilities; and

(B) Current assets, located in the United States, exceed its total (*i.e.*, worldwide) current liabilities. This additional statement must specifically name the applicant or certificant, indicate that the amounts so verified relate only to the applicant or certificant, apart from any other affiliated entity, and identify the consolidated financial statement to which it applies.

(ii) *Semiannual submissions.* When the applicant's or certificant's demonstrated net worth is not at least ten times the total applicable amount of financial responsibility, the applicant's or certificant's Treasurer (or equivalent official) shall file affidavits covering the first six months of the applicant's or certificant's fiscal year. The affidavits must state that neither the working capital nor the net worth have, during the first six months of the current fiscal year, fallen below the applicant's or certificant's required amount of financial responsibility as determined in accordance with this part.

(iii) *Additional submissions.* An applicant or certificant—

(A) Shall, upon request of the Director, NPFC, submit additional financial information; and

(B) Who establishes financial responsibility under paragraph (b)(3) of this section shall notify the Director, NPFC, within five business days of the date the applicant or certificant knows, or has reason to believe, that the working capital or net worth has fallen below the amounts required by this part.

(iv) *Time for submissions.* All required annual financial statements must be received by the Director, NPFC, within 90 days after the close of the applicant's or certificant's fiscal year, and all affidavits required by paragraph (b)(3)(ii) of this section within 30 days after the close of the applicable six-month period. Upon written request, the Director, NPFC, may grant an extension of the time limits for filing the annual financial statements or affidavits. An applicant or certificant that requests an extension must set forth the reason for the extension and deliver the request at least 15 days before the statements or affidavits are due. The Director, NPFC, will not consider a request for an extension of more than 60 days.

(v) *Failure to submit.* The Director, NPFC, may revoke a certificate for failure of the certificant to submit any statement, data, notification, or affidavit required by paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(vi) *Waiver of working capital.* The Director, NPFC, may waive the working capital requirement for any applicant or certificant that—

(A) Is a regulated public utility, a municipal or higher-level governmental entity, or an entity operating solely as a charitable, non-profit making organization qualifying under section 501(c) Internal Revenue Code. The applicant or certificant must demonstrate in writing that the grant of a waiver would benefit a local public interest; or

(B) Demonstrates in writing that working capital is not a significant factor in the applicant's or certificant's financial condition. An applicant's or certificant's net worth in relation to the amount of its required amount of financial responsibility and

a history of stable operations are the major elements considered by the Director, NPFC.

(4) *Financial Guaranty.* By filing with the Director, NPFC, a Financial Guaranty Form CG-5586-3, illustrated in Appendix E of this part (when applying for a Master Certificate, a Master Financial Guaranty Form CG-5586-4, illustrated in Appendix F of this part), executed by not more than four financial guarantors, such as a parent or affiliate acceptable to the Coast Guard. A financial guarantor shall comply with all of the self-insurance provisions of paragraph (b)(3) of this section. In addition, a person that is a financial guarantor for more than one applicant or certificant shall have working capital and net worth no less than the aggregate total applicable amounts of financial responsibility provided as a guarantor for each applicant or certificant, plus the amount required to be demonstrated by a self-insurer under this part, if also acting as a self-insurer.

(5) *Other evidence of financial responsibility.* The Director, NPFC, will not accept a self-insurance method other than the one described in paragraph (b)(3) of this section. An applicant may in writing request the Director, NPFC, to accept a method different from one described in paragraph (b) (1), (2), or (4) of this section to demonstrate evidence of financial responsibility. An applicant submitting a request under this paragraph shall submit the request to the Director, NPFC, at least 45 days prior to the date the Certificate is required. The applicant shall describe in detail the method proposed, the reasons why the applicant does not wish to use or is unable to use one of the methods described in paragraph (b) (1), (2), or (4) of this section, and how the proposed method assures that the applicant is able to fulfill its obligation to pay costs and damages in the event of an incident or a release or threatened release. The Director, NPFC, will not accept a method under this paragraph that merely deletes or alters a provision of one of the methods described in paragraph (b) (1), (2), or (4) of this section (for example, one that alters the termination clause of the insurance guaranty form illustrated in

Appendix B of this part). An applicant that makes a request under this paragraph shall provide the Director, NPFC, a proposed guaranty form that includes all the elements described in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section. A decision of the Director, NPFC, not to accept a method requested by an applicant under this paragraph is final agency action.

(c) *Forms—(1) Multiple guarantors.* Four or fewer insurers (a lead underwriter is considered to be one insurer) may jointly execute an insurance guaranty form. Ten or fewer sureties (including lead sureties) may jointly execute a surety bond guaranty form. Four or fewer financial guarantors may jointly execute a financial guaranty form. If more than one insurer, surety, or financial guarantor executes the relevant form—

(i) Each is bound for the payment of sums only in accordance with the percentage of vertical participation specified on the relevant form for that insurer, surety, or financial guarantor. Participation in the form of layering (tiers, one in excess of another) is not acceptable; only vertical participation on a percentage basis is acceptable unless none of the participants specifies a percent of participation. If no percentage of participation is specified for an insurer, surety, or financial guarantor, the liability of that insurer, surety, or financial guarantor is joint and several for the total of the unspecified portions; and

(ii) The guarantors must designate a lead guarantor having authority to bind all guarantors for actions required of guarantors under the Acts, including but not limited to receipt of designation of source, advertisement of a designation, and receipt and settlement of claims.

(2) *Operator name.* An applicant shall ensure that each form submitted under this part sets forth in full the correct legal name of the vessel operator to whom a certificate is to be issued.

(d) *Direct Action.* (1) *Acknowledgment.* Any evidence of financial responsibility submitted under this part must contain an acknowledgment by the insurer or other guarantor that an action in court by a claimant (including a claimant by right of subrogation) for

costs and damage claims arising under the provisions of the Acts, may be brought directly against the insurer or other guarantor. The evidence of financial responsibility must also provide that, in the event an action is brought under the Acts directly against the insurer or other guarantor, the insurer or other guarantor may invoke only the following rights and defenses:

(i) The incident, release, or threatened release was caused by the willful misconduct of the person for whom the guaranty is provided.

(ii) Any defense that the person for whom the guaranty is provided may raise under the Acts.

(iii) A defense relating to the amount of a claim or claims, filed in any action in any court or other proceeding, that exceeds the amount of the guaranty with respect to an incident or with respect to a release or threatened release.

(iv) A defense relating to the amount of a claim or claims that exceeds the amount of the guaranty, which amount is based on the gross tonnage of the vessel as entered on the vessel's International Tonnage Certificate or other official, applicable certificate of measurement, except when the guarantor knew or should have known that the applicable tonnage certificate was incorrect.

(v) The claim is not one made under either of the Acts.

(2) *Limitation on guarantor liability.* A guarantor that participates in any evidence of financial responsibility under this part shall be liable because of that participation, with respect to an incident or a release or threatened release, in any proceeding only for the amount and type of costs and damages specified in the evidence of financial responsibility. A guarantor shall not be considered to have consented to direct action under any law other than the Acts, or to unlimited liability under any law or in any venue, solely because of the guarantor's participation in providing any evidence of financial responsibility under this part. In the event of any finding that liability of a guarantor exceeds the amount of the guaranty provided under this part, that guaranty is considered null and void with respect to that excess.

(e) *Public access to data.* Financial data filed by an applicant, certificated, and any other person is considered public information to the extent required by the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and permitted by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a).

(f) *Total applicable amount.* (1) The applicable amount under OPA 90 is determined as follows:

(i) For a tank vessel (except a tank vessel on which no liquid hazardous material in bulk is being carried as cargo or cargo residue, and on which the only oil carried as cargo or cargo residue is an animal fat or vegetable oil, as those terms are used in section 2 of the Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act (Pub. L. 104-55)).

(A) Over 300 gross tons (and a vessel of 300 gross tons or less using the waters of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone to transship or lighter oil destined for a place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as specified in §138.12(a)(1)) but not exceeding 3,000 gross tons, the greater of \$2,000,000 or \$1,200 per gross ton; and

(B) Over 3,000 gross tons, the greater of \$10,000,000 or \$1,200 per gross ton.

(ii) For a vessel other than a tank vessel under paragraph (f)(1)(i) of this section that is over 300 gross tons or that is 300 gross tons or less using the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States to transship or lighter oil destined for a place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, the greater of \$500,000 or \$600 per gross ton.

(2) The applicable amount under CERCLA is determined as follows:

(i) For a vessel over 300 gross tons carrying a hazardous substance as cargo, the greater of \$5,000,000 or \$300 per gross ton.

(ii) For any other vessel over 300 gross tons, the greater of \$500,000 or \$300 per gross ton.

(3) The total applicable amount is the maximum applicable amount calculated under paragraph (f)(1) of this section plus maximum applicable amount calculated under paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

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**§ 138.90**

**33 CFR Ch. I (7-1-05 Edition)**

**§ 138.90 Individual and Fleet Certificates.**

(a) The Director, NPFC, issues an individual Certificate for each vessel listed on a completed application when the Director, NPFC, determines that acceptable evidence of financial responsibility has been provided and appropriate fees have been paid, except where a Fleet Certificate is issued under this section or where a Master Certificate is issued under § 138.110. Each Certificate of any type issued under this part is issued only in the name of a vessel operator and is effective for not more than three years from the date of issue, as indicated on each Certificate. An authorized official of the applicant may submit to the Director, NPFC, a letter requesting that additional vessels be added to a previously submitted application for an individual Certificate. The letter must set forth all information required in item 5 of the application form. The authorized official shall also submit or cause to be submitted acceptable evidence of financial responsibility, if required, and certification fees for these additional vessels. The certificant shall carry the original individual Certificate on the vessel named on the Certificate, except that a legible copy (certified as accurate by a notary public or other person authorized to take oaths in the United States) may be carried instead of the original if the vessel is an unmanned barge and does not have a document carrying device which the vessel operator believes would offer suitable protection for the original Certificate. If a notarized copy of an individual Certificate is carried aboard a barge, the Certificate shall retain the original in the United States and shall make it readily available for inspection by United States Government officials.

(b) An operator of two or more barges that are not tank vessels and that from time to time may be subject to this part (e.g., a hopper barge over 300 gross tons when carrying oily metal shavings or similar cargo), so long as the operator of such a fleet is a self-insurer or arranges with an acceptable guarantor to cover, automatically, all such barges for which the operator may from time to time be responsible, may

apply to the Director, NPFC, for issuance of a Fleet Certificate. A legible copy of the Fleet Certificate, certified as accurate by a notary public or other person authorized to take oaths in the United States, must be carried on each barge when subject to this part. In addition, the certificant shall retain in the United States the original Fleet Certificate and shall make it readily available for inspection by United States Government officials. The original Fleet Certificate, when invalid, must be completed on the reverse side and returned immediately to the Director, NPFC, and all copies must be destroyed. When the certificant ceases to be responsible for a barge covered by a Fleet Certificate, the certificant shall immediately destroy the copy of the Fleet Certificate carried aboard that barge.

(c) A person shall not make any alteration on any Certificate issued under this part or copy of that Certificate, except the notarized certifications permitted in § 138.110(f) and paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section. A Certificate or copy containing any alteration is void.

(d) If, at any time after a Certificate has been issued, a certificant becomes aware of a change in any of the facts contained in the application or supporting documentation, the certificant shall notify the Director, NPFC, in writing within 10 days of becoming aware of the change. A vessel or operator name change or change of a guarantor shall be reported as soon as possible by telefax or other electronic means to the Director, NPFC, and followed by a written notice sent within three business days.

(e) Except as provided in § 138.90(f), at the moment a certificant ceases to be the operator of a vessel for any reason, including a vessel that is scrapped or transferred to a new operator, the individual Certificate naming the vessel, and any copies of the Certificate, are void and their further use is prohibited. In that case, the certificant shall, within 10 days of the Certificate becoming void, complete the reverse side of the original individual Certificate naming the involved vessel and return the Certificate to the Director, NPFC. If the Certificate cannot be returned