

## **Marine Safety Information Bulletin**

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## **Notice of Issuance for Load Line Exemptions Published**

The U.S. Coast Guard announced today publication of a notice of issuance in the Federal Register that informs the general public about recent actions pertaining to load line exemptions authorized under 46 CFR 42.03-30 and the International Convention on Load Lines (ICLL).

As indicated in recent notifications to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Coast Guard will authorize qualified U.S.-flag hopper dredges, on a case by case basis, to operate internationally at reduced ICLL freeboards. The Coast Guard will also authorize qualified hopper dredges and barges, on a case by case basis, to operate internationally without hatch covers that are otherwise required by ICLL Regulation 14. This notice will be of particular interest to the U.S. dredging industry, and naval architecture and marine engineering firms.

The notice also announces the completion and availability of the DR-68 reduced freeboard standards for hopper dredges. Owners/operators of hopper dredges or barges seeking an exemption or equivalency using any of these standards should contact their load line issuing authority (classification society).

The notice and related materials may be reviewed online at <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a>, under docket number USCG-2010-0618.

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