

## Small Entity Compliance Guide for the User Fees for Inspected Towing Vessels Final Rule

Basics—	<p>The Coast Guard is updating its user fees for seagoing towing vessels that are 300 gross tons or more and revising user fees for other inspected towing vessels. The Coast Guard is issuing these updates because it is required to establish and maintain a fair fee for its vessel inspection services and to separate the fees for inspection options that involve third-party auditors and surveyors from inspection options that do not involve third parties. Under this final rule, owners and operators of vessels using the Alternate Compliance Program (ACP), Streamlined Inspection Program (SIP), or the Towing Safety Management System (TSMS) options will pay a lower fee than vessels that use the traditional Coast Guard inspection option.</p> <p>The rule became effective on <b>March 27, 2024</b>. This Small Entity Compliance Guide (SECG), issued under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, provides a plain language overview of the rule, <b>but you should refer to the final rule directly for details.</b></p>
Who is affected by this rule?	You are affected by this rule if you own or operate a Coast Guard inspected towing vessel.
Where are the regulations found?	The regulations are found in Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 2.10 “Fees” at <a href="#">eCFR :: 46 CFR Part 2 -- Vessel Inspections</a> .
Why does the Coast Guard charge user fees?	The law requires the Coast Guard to establish a fee for its inspection services and the fee must be fair and based on the costs to the Government, value to the recipient, and public interest. (See 31 U.S. Code 9701 and 46 U.S. Code 2110).
What action must I take if I am covered by the rule?	Vessel inspection user fees are changed annually. A vessel owner or operator will receive a notice from the Coast Guard about the amount to pay and how to pay it.
What are the new vessel inspection categories and fees?	<p>For 46 CFR Subchapter M towing vessels using the—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• traditional Coast Guard inspection option, the new fee is \$2,184.</li><li>• TSMS option, the new fee is \$973.</li></ul> <p>For 46 CFR Subchapter I towing vessels using the—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• traditional Coast Guard inspection option, the new fee is \$2,747.</li><li>• ACP option, the new fee is \$1,850.</li><li>• SIP option, the new fee is \$2,260.</li></ul>

<p>What if any alternatives are there to this rule for small businesses?</p>	<p>Unless your vessel qualifies for an exemption from paying user fees, there are no alternatives. Information about exemptions is found at—46 CFR 2.10-5.</p>
<p>How do I find this rule?</p>	<p>The official text of the “User Fees for Inspected Towing Vessels” final rule appears in 88 Federal Register 89595 for December 28, 2023. The Federal Register is available at <a href="http://www.FederalRegister.gov">www.FederalRegister.gov</a>.  For additional details on this rulemaking record, visit website: <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">www.regulations.gov</a>. The docket number for this rule is USCG-2018-0538.</p>
<p>If you have any questions about this rule, contact—</p>	<p>Commercial Vessel Compliance Office United States Coast Guard Phone: 202-372-1216 E-mail: <a href="mailto:CGCVC@uscg.mil">CGCVC@uscg.mil</a></p>
<p>For additional Coast Guard SECGs, visit—</p>	<p><a href="#">Small Entity Compliance Guide (uscg.mil)</a></p>