

NATIONAL TOWING SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NTSAC)

TASK STATEMENT # 22-02

I. TASK TITLE

Recommendations for Training and Instruction for Crewmembers Working Aboard Subchapter M Inspected Towing Vessels. (Short Title: Crewmember Training)

II. BACKGROUND:

Towing vessels are distinguished by their ability to execute multifaceted marine operations in a variety of unique environments. Correspondingly, the hazards that towing vessels face on a daily basis are just as exceptional and diverse. Hence, working aboard a towing vessel requires a unique set of skills that can only be developed by receiving specialized instruction and training that is then complemented by operational proficiency developed through practical on-the-job applications.

Resultantly, 46 CFR § 140, requires that towing vessels inspected under Subchapter M provide crewmembers and non-crewmembers with baseline training and instruction to include:

- Emergency duties and duty stations (46 CFR § 140.405)
- Safety orientation (46 CFR § 140.410)
- Emergency drills and instruction (46 CFR § 140.420)
- Identification and mitigation of health and safety hazards (46 CFR § 140.510)
- Training requirements (OSH) (46 CFR § 140.515)
- Navigation safety training (46 CFR § 140.645)

Safe and successful towing vessel operators are distinguished by crews who not only have years of seasoned knowledge and experience, but are also dedicated to the concept of teamwork and working together to ensure safe and efficient vessel operations.

III. TASK:

NTSAC will develop a final report that provides a description of core competencies and training resources that vessel operators can leverage to not only comply with the minimum regulatory requirements mentioned above, but empowers such operators to build proficient crews aware of and capable of responding to operational or emergency situations.

Particular attention should be given to proficiency items that focus on not just technical acumen but human factors as well. The final report should, at a minimum, discuss:

- 46 CFR § 140 Subpart D- Crew Safety
- 46 CFR § 140 Subpart E- Safety and Health
- 46 CFR § 140 Subpart F- Vessel Operational Safety

IV. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK:

NTSAC will provide a Draft Final Report to the Coast Guard at its fall 2023 meeting

V. COAST GUARD TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE:

POC: USCG TVNCOE, USCG CVC-1

VI. NTSAC CONTACT:

Chair: John Arenstam, jarenstam@seamenschurch.org

Vice Chair: Robert Keister, Robert.keister@sabinesurveyors.com

VII. ENCLOSURES: