



FINDINGS OF CONCERN

Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur

August 9, 2022
Port Arthur, Texas

Findings of Concern 007-22

ALCOHOL TESTING STRIPS

Purpose. The U.S. Coast Guard issues findings of concern to disseminate information related to unsafe conditions identified as causal factors in a casualty and could contribute to future incidents. Findings of concern are also intended to educate the public, state, or local agencies about the conditions discovered so they may address the findings with an appropriate voluntary action or highlight existing applicable company policies or state/local regulations.



The Incident. A collision occurred between an Articulated Tug & Barge and an Offshore Supply Vessel resulting in nearly \$2 million in combined property damage to the vessels. As a result of the collision, the crewmembers involved were required by 46 Code of Federal Regulations Part 4 to conduct alcohol testing as part of the post-casualty requirements.

Regulatory Analysis. The investigation revealed that both of the vessels conducted alcohol testing; however, one of the vessel's failed to conduct the alcohol testing properly. They utilized alcohol testing strips that were expired and did not follow the correct testing procedures for the alcohol testing strips that were onboard the vessel.

Findings of Concern. In light of this investigation vessel owners, operators, and Masters are encouraged to take appropriate action with regard to alcohol testing strips.

- Routinely check alcohol strips for expiration and replace expired strips
- Review company policy and provide employees with appropriate training
- Crewmembers should examine alcohol strips and testing procedures onboard prior to conducting any post-casualty testing
- During inspections, examinations and/or surveys, verify that all testing strips onboard have not expired

Closing. These findings of concern are provided for informational purpose only and do not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational, or material requirements. For any questions or comments please contact Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur Investigations Division by phone at (409) 723-6591 or by email at MSUPortArthurIO@uscg.mil.