

U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
United States  
Coast Guard



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16712  
16 July 1997

From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District  
To: Distribution

Subj: TANKERMAN REQUIREMENTS ON OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSELS

1. Effective immediately, all units shall cease the practice of requiring tankermen on the Certificate of Inspection (COI) of offshore supply vessels (OSVs) for the purpose of supervising transfers of grades D and E cargos or excess fuel from the vessel's integral tanks. Any COI that contains a requirement for a tankerman under these circumstances will have it removed as soon as possible, but not later than the next inspection resulting in reissuance of the vessel's certificate.

2. In a proactive effort to improve the level of safety on OSVs transferring grades D and E cargoes and fuels, some OCMIs have required tankermen as part of the vessel's crew. Implementation of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW 1978) made it clear that personnel working on OSVs will not qualify for a tankerman endorsement. This catch-22 situation led to a regulatory search which concluded that there is no requirement for non-tank vessels to have a tankerman in the vessel's manning. The only requirement applicable to all vessels is cited in 33 CFR 155.710(e) which states that the person-in-charge (PIC) of any transfer of fuel oil requiring a Declaration of Inspection must hold a valid license issued under 46 CFR part 10 authorizing service as master, mate, pilot, engineer, or operator aboard that vessel, or holds a valid Merchant Mariners Document issued under 46 CFR part 13 endorsed as Tankerman-PIC or Tankerman-PIC (Barge), appropriate for the fuel oil being transferred.

3. This policy applies to OSVs certificated under 46 CFR Subchapter "I" and "L" provided the vessel does not carry flammable or combustible cargos in amounts exceeding that allowed by the respective Subchapters. This policy also applies to OSVs certificated under Subchapter "T" when transferring excess fuel to offshore drilling and production facilities (see CCGD8(moc) ltr 16711 dtd 30 May 1997).

4. Questions regarding this matter may be directed to Chief Warrant Officer Gary Busby at (504) 589-6271.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary A. Tetreau".  
G. A. TETREAU  
By direction

Dist: All Eighth District Gulf Region MSOs, MSU and MSDs

Copy: COMDT (G-MOC-1) (G-MOC-2) (G-MSO-1) (G-MSO-2)