NOTICE OF ARRIVAL REQUIREMENTS ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS)

On February 14, 2011, Federal Register Volume 76 No. 9 went into effect and modified 33 CFR 146 to require new reporting criteria for MODUs, floating facilities and vessels operating on the OCS. With the new requirements vessels transiting from one OCS block to another had to report their movements. No exclusion was made for U.S. Vessels. Enforcement of these requirements for U.S. vessels transiting from a U.S. port or place was withheld due to the reporting system not having an OMB approval for the new information.

On December 20, 2012, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (public law 112-113) was passed. The act states, “The regulations required under section 109 (a) of the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 1223 note) for foreign vessels on the Outer Continental Shelf shall not apply to a vessel documented under section 12105 of title 46, United States Code, unless the vessel arrives from a foreign port or place.” Therefore, a U.S. documented vessel operating on the OCS only has to file a Notice of Arrival when it is arriving from a foreign voyage. Note that this does not affect the 14 day MODU arrival notification requirement to the District Commander as per 33 CFR 146.202.

The Coast Guard will amend the applicable cites in 33 CFR 146. Until that time however, local units and industry personnel are reminded that the filing of a Notice of Arrival for U.S. vessels while transiting on the OCS is not required unless arriving from a foreign port or place. Coast Guard units are asked to forward this notice to industry partners who operate U.S. documented vessels on the OCS.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to LCDR Michael Lendvay, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Commandant (CG-CVC) at 202-372-1218.