

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley

What to Expect from a Coast Guard Boarding

Armed Coast Guard personnel routinely conduct boardings of commercial towing vessels on the Western Rivers. The purpose of these boardings is to ensure the safety and security of all persons on board and to ensure that the vessel is in compliance with applicable regulations and standards.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Do I need to wake up all the crew members?
 - a. Unless specifically requested by the boarding officers, do not wake sleeping crew members. The Coast Guard is aware of the rigorous work schedule and the requirement for crew members to have sufficient sleep in order to work safely. In some cases, boarding officers may ask that sleeping crew members be wakened because of a particular safety or security concern.
 - b. While the Coast Guard will not normally need to wake up sleeping crew members, we will ask for the full name and date of birth of all crew members. Tow boat masters can minimize the need to wake crew members by having a list with this information in the pilothouse.
2. What will the Coast Guard boarding officers want to see?
 - a. The boarding officers will typically conduct a brief walk through of the deck area, engine room and some interior spaces. Please alert the Coast Guard members to any unusual safety concerns, such as open hatches, ongoing maintenance, etc.
3. How long will the boarding take?
 - a. A typical boarding will take 30-60 minutes, depending on the nature of the boarding and if the Coast Guard notes any safety or security concerns. If the vessel is approaching a sharp bend, bridge, etc, notify the boarding officers who will adjust their activity to allow the master/pilot to give full attention to navigation.

Useful Links:

- Crew Endurance Management Info <http://www.marinetelecom.net/CGD0103Report.pdf>
- Transportation Worker Id Credentials http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/layers/twic/index.shtm
- U.S. Coast Guard Homeport Webpage <http://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do>
- Sector Ohio Valley Online Customer Survey <http://homeport.uscg.mil/maritimesurvey>
- American Waterway Watch <http://www.americaswaterwaywatch.org/>
- National Response Center Phone Number **1-800-424-8802**

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