

COMMERCIAL FISHING SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFSAC)
Training Standards

TASK STATEMENT 15-01 ACTION SHEET

TASK TITLE: TRAINING STANDARDS and CERTAIN DEFINITIONS RELATED to COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS

BACKGROUND:

The Coast Guard continually seeks way to improve safety within the commercial fishing industry. The Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee is a significant participant in this effort by providing recommendations for improving safety and program initiatives. Past recommendations from the Committee, casualty investigation reports, and other feedback have often addressed crew training and competencies for operators.

Section 604 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 amended various sections of Title 46 of the U.S. Code, Chapter 45. One such provision, adds new requirements for Uninspected Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels. In Section 4502 - Safety Standards, a new subsection (g) required individuals in charge of a vessel to pass a training program covering several competencies and be issued a certificate for the training. Those individuals must also complete refresher training every five years. The Coast Guard must develop/approve the training program and implement regulations for the training requirement.

In light of this new requirement, the Coast Guard sought advice and recommendations from the Committee. A subcommittee was established for the task, and a list of objectives was provided to the Coast Guard for each of the required competencies. These were refined over the past two meetings.

In a related item, there has recently been interest expressed regarding definitions/terminology for crews and operations. Questions have arisen as to what is meant by a “watch” and “operates/operating.” Also, what is meant by the term “safety sensitive position”? The Coast Guard is concerned that confusion may exist with these terms and sees a need to establish clarity on them when related to commercial fishing vessels.

DESCRIPTION OF TASK:

1. In a continuation of and review of deliberations from meetings in 2001, 2013, and 2014 for Tasks 11-05, 13-01, and 14-01, the Coast Guard seeks confirmation and adequacy of the objectives recommended to develop a standardized curriculum outline and/or training modules for a competency-based training requirements for individuals in charge of commercial fishing vessels as listed here:

- Seamanship, collision prevention, and navigation
(Understanding navigation publications information)
- Vessel stability
- Damage control

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- Fire fighting and prevention
- Emergency medical care
- Emergency drills, and personal survival
(Communicating an emergency)
- Weather

Further, the Coast Guard seeks advice and recommendations on how best to develop a standard curriculum outline for required operator competencies training. The CFVS Program and the national Maritime Center are unlikely to have adequate resources to develop such a standard. Developing a national standard curriculum would help facilitate individual training organizations to develop and submit training courses for approval to meet the operator training requirements. The Committee is asked to provide information or recommendations on training organizations or other qualified education entities that could be contacted and possibly contracted for this effort.

2. The Coast Guard requests the Committee to review information and any citations that may already exist on the following terms, and recommend whether or not a definition of the terms should be included in 46 CFR Part 28 specifically as they relate to commercial fishing vessels:

- “Watch” – as it relates to established duties on a vessel and as it may relate to a requirement for licensed or credentialed personnel to fill a particular position.
- “Operates/operating” – as it relates to the movement or activities of a vessel and when certain safety requirements may apply to the vessel.
- “Safety sensitive position” – as it relates to duties and responsibilities of an individual on a fishing vessel with respect to drug and alcohol testing requirements outlined in 46 CFR Part 16 and guidance documents.

Coast Guard Technical Representative: Mr. JACK KEMERER
Chief, Fishing Vessel Safety Division
(202) 372-1249, Jack.A.Kemerer@uscg.mil

Forwarded for Committee Consideration: _____
KYLE P. MCAVOY, Captain, USCG
Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Date Forwarded: _____

Committee Action: _____

Chairman, CFSAC
Date Approved: _____

Working Group Chair
