



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Inspections and Compliance Directorate
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Compliance with Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR) Requirements

The purpose of this Bulletin is to remind owners and operators of U.S. flagged vessels engaged on international voyages to comply with CSR requirements. The primary purpose of the CSR is to provide a history of the ship which can be inspected by appropriate officials. Recently, multiple U.S. flagged vessels have been cited by Port State Control (PSC) authorities for missing and incomplete CSRs resulting in deficiencies and delays.

SOLAS Chapter XI-1, Regulation 5 requires all passenger ships and cargo ships of 500 gross tons and above engaged on international voyages to have on board a CSR [33 CFR 104.297(a)]. In accordance with IMO Resolution A.959(23), a CSR file comprises:

1. all CSR documents (Form 1) issued over the life of the ship.
2. all amendment forms (Form 2) attached to each individual CSR document.
3. all indices of amendments (Form 3) relating to each CSR document.

Each original CSR document is to be sent to the ship and kept by the ship throughout its lifetime. It is the responsibility of the Company to ensure that the CSR file is complete, accurate, and maintained (as original) on board. In case of loss or damage to a ship's CSR file, the Company should contact, in writing, the ship's Administration without delay, and list the papers lost or damaged. For U.S. flagged vessels or CSRs issued by the United States, please contact the Coast Guard's CSR Desk located at the National Vessel Documentation Center.

CSR Desk Contact Information:

Toll Free: (866) 603-5476
Fax: (304) 271-2563
e-mail: vdc-pf-csrdesk@uscg.mil

Mailing Address:
National Vessel Documentation Center
Attn: CSR Desk
P.O.Box 1750
Falling Waters, WV 25419-1750

The CSR Desk can provide relevant duplicates to the ship of the CSR documents and amendment forms that it holds. Duplicates should be marked accordingly.

It is imperative that U.S. flagged vessels adhere to their statutory certificate requirements while engaged on any voyage. Valid certificates not only assure foreign PSC authorities that the standards pertaining to ship stability, structure, safety and security are adhered to, they also prevent undue delays, detentions, and fines. Verifying that vessels meet applicable requirements in advance of foreign voyages and port calls can go a long way toward facilitating PSC inspections and improving the international standing of the U.S. Flag.