



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Inspections and Compliance Directorate
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE, STOP 7501
Washington, DC 20593-7501

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E-Mail: FlagStateControl@uscg.mil

GAO Report - Vessel Safety: The Coast Guard Conducts Recurrent Inspections and Has Issued Guidance to Address Emergency Preparedness

The Save Our Seas Act of 2018 directed the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit regarding the implementation and effectiveness of the Coast Guard's oversight and enforcement of safety management plans required under United States Code Title 46 Chapter 32. On April 8, 2020, General Accounting Office (GAO) issued their report GAO-20-459 "[Vessel Safety: The Coast Guard Conducts Recurrent Inspections and Has Issued Guidance to Address Emergency Preparedness.](#)" The full report is available on the GAO website at: <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-20-459>.

The Coast Guard reminds mariners and companies to use [CVC-WI-004\(1\): U.S. Flag Interpretations on the ISM Code](#) when assessing the risks in accordance with ISM Code 1.2.2.2. This Administration guidance provides a list of 21 Emergency Procedures to take into consideration for your vessels. This is not an all-inclusive list and companies are encouraged to evaluate risks unique to their specific operations. It may be that a particular risk is not applicable to the company's operations, but a company should be prepared to discuss or provide documents that outline the reasons for not addressing a particular risk element in their Safety Management System.

Additional administration guidance is located at [Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance \(CG-CVC\)](#) website under the Flag State Control and Policy and Guidance tabs.

Richard V. Timme, RDML, U. S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy