

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



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16711/MODU

AUG 24 1999

Mr. Gary Busby
Marine Inspection and Compliance Coordinator
Pool Company
3640 Peters Road
Harvey, LA 70058-1831

Dear Mr. Busby:

This is in response to your appeal of the Officer in Charge Marine Inspection (OCMI), Morgan City's decision to deny your request for a ten-person sleeping space on the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) RANGER VII. This vessel is a 213 gross ton mat-supported jack-up MODU, built in 1982, registered in Vanuatu, and classed by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS). After carefully evaluating your arguments and the applicable laws and regulations, I must deny your appeal.

All MODUs operating on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) must either have a U.S. Coast Guard issued Certificate of Inspection if U.S. registered, or a Coast Guard Letter of Compliance (LOC) if foreign registered. Since Vanuatu's MODU requirements have not been found equivalent to the U.S. regulations for MODUs (LOC option B), and RANGER VII does not have a full International Maritime Organization (IMO) MODU Code Certificate (LOC option C), the vessel is not eligible for inspection under these two LOC options. Consequently, RANGER VII must comply with U.S. MODU regulations in 46 CFR Part 108 (LOC Option A) pursuant to 33 CFR 143.207(a).

During the last inspection conducted by MSO Morgan City it was noted that the quarters had recently been modified such that there is now a 10-person berthing area. Under the provisions of 46 CFR 108.201(a), only a 4-person sleeping space is permitted. However, a stateroom for personnel not normally employed on a unit may berth up to *six* persons *if* the space is arranged to minimize disturbances to the occupants as personnel enter/exit for shift work (46 CFR 108.199). Additionally, the space must be authorized by Commandant (G-MSO) for berthing 6 persons. The 10-person berthing area does not conform to the U.S. standard with respect to either the maximum capacity or the minimum of 30 square feet/person required by 46 CFR 108.201(b).

While the Vanuatu flag administration and the American Bureau of Shipping have both approved the 10-person space, you have **not** gained approval of Commandant for exceeding the 4-person limit. Additionally, the space only provides 18 square feet/person, well below the U.S. standard.

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Your efforts to improve the quality and the egress from the berthing space are noted. However, I concur with the OCMI that with a higher volume of personnel berthed in one area, the traffic will be greater which increases the likelihood of disturbing off-tour personnel. I agree with the OCMI that having personnel get insufficient rest periods could result in safety related accidents. Therefore, you are required to reconfigure the ten-man stateroom aboard the RANGER VII to accommodate either four persons, or no more than six persons if so approved by Commandant (G-MSO).

If you feel aggrieved by this decision you may appeal to the Commandant (G-MOC) in accordance with 46 CFR 1.03-25. Any such appeal must be submitted in writing via this office within 30 days of your receipt of this decision. It must identify the decision being appealed, and the reason that the decision should be overturned.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lieutenant Commander Mike Brown at (504) 589-6743.



C. T. DESMOND
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Marine Safety Division
By direction of the Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District

Copy: Commandant (G-MOC)
OCMI Morgan City