



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Special Load Line Regime for River Barges on Lake Michigan Final Rule Published

The Coast Guard announced today publication in the Federal Register of a final rule establishing a special load line regime for certain unmanned dry-cargo river barges operating on Lake Michigan.

Depending on the route, eligible barges may obtain a limited domestic service load line assignment or be conditionally exempted from any load line assignment at all. This special load line regime allows river barges operating under safe conditions to directly transport non-hazardous cargoes originating at inland river ports as far as Milwaukee and Muskegon, resulting in increased flexibility for participating barge owners and operators.

The final rule and related materials may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> using docket number: USCG-1998-4623.

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