

140-001

What are the PIC requirements and when will they be implemented, considering that no one other than the Master or mate/Pilot typically holds an MMC?

PIC requirements have been outlined in CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-17, Guidelines for Issuing Endorsements for Tankerman PIC Restricted to Fuel Transfers on Towing Vessels.

https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/regulations_policies/complete_policy_letters.pdf

Received Aug 2016

Answered 31 Aug 2016, updated 29 May 2018

140-002

OSHA Coverage: Do OSHA requirements still apply to working conditions on towing vessels covered by Subchapter M of Chapter I of 46 CFR?

Yes. OSHA's requirements for these towing vessels will remain in effect until July 20, 2018, or when the vessel obtains its COI, whichever date is earlier. See 29 C.F.R. 136.172. However, the Coast Guard remains the lead agency and continues to receive reports of marine casualties for injuries, death, etc. as currently required by 46 CFR part 4. Beginning July 20, 2018 or the date of the issuance of a COI for a towing vessel, whichever comes earlier, existing towing vessels covered by Subchapter M will be "inspected vessels" within the meaning of the 1983 memorandum of understanding between the Coast Guard and OSHA and thus the working conditions of seamen on those vessels will not be covered by OSHA. Therefore, beginning on July 20, 2018, OSHA will cover seamen only on those towing vessels that will remain uninspected vessels. See 29 CFR 1936.105 for the types of towing vessels which will remain uninspected vessels.

A further delineation of the authorities of each agency and applicable requirements is provided in OSHA's Directive: CPL 02-01-047 (Effective date: 02/22/2010) - Subject: OSHA Authority Over Vessels and Facilities on or Adjacent to U.S. Navigable Waters and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) - https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_02-01-047.pdf.

Received Aug 2016

Answered 31 Aug 2016, updated 29 May 2018

140-003**What is the policy regarding electronic record keeping on towing vessels covered by Subchapter M of Chapter I of 46 CFR?**

Section 140.910 is the primary 46 CFR subchapter M regulation concerning the requirements for record keeping. This section allows the towing vessel record (TVR) to be “electronic or paper.” Section 140.915(a) further specifies the list of items that are required to be recorded in “the TVR, official logbook, or in accordance with the TSMS applicable to the vessel.” Entries for this list of items serve to document events required by other sections in part 140 and other parts of subchapter M. Section 140.910(b) requires that electronic entries include specific information regarding the date, time and name of the person making the entry. Towing vessels and companies using the TSMS option should ensure that their TSMSs provide specific guidance regarding the record keeping requirements of subchapter M, regardless of the method employed. There is no requirement that the TVR or other record of events be centrally located on one system (for example, a server). However, if the TSMS specifies that various departments are responsible for maintaining required records, the responsible personnel in those departments should be able to produce the records upon request of the Coast Guard or a Third Party Organization (TPO) auditor. Also, the note to § 140.915 makes clear that this TVR electronic record keeping provision does not alter requirements outside of subchapter M that call for items to be recorded in official logbooks (discussed in § 140.905). For example, entries required by 33 CFR 151.25 must still be made in an Oil Record Book printed by the U.S. Government. The list of items required to be recorded is significant, regardless of the inspection option chosen (TSMS or USCG). The importance of maintaining a reliable record keeping system cannot be overstated. Therefore, owners, operators, and TPOs should thoughtfully develop the system and periodically verify its compliance with subchapter M requirements. In general, as specified in § 140.910(d), records must be maintained for at least one year following the date of the last entry.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 23 Nov 2016

140-004**Is the Coast Guard’s intention to require more or less than what is currently conceived in a station bill?**

No, the Coast Guard does not intend to add or remove anything from the “station bill” as laid out in § 140.405(b)(1) thru (b)(9) and (b)(10) for a TSMS vessel. As discussed in the preamble to the final rule, middle column of page 40041, the requirements in the final rule are substantially unchanged from those in the proposed rule with the exception of adding “threats to the environment” to item 9 on that list.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 6 Feb 2017

140-005

Clarify whether the requirement to follow instruction conducted in an electronic format with a discussion and demonstration is applicable to all training requirements, or only to the instruction required under §140.420.

The requirement within § 140.420(e) is only applicable to those instances of drill-related instruction discussed within § 140.420. Other training or instruction required under another part of Subchapter M is governed by the specific requirements therein.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 6 Feb 2017

Question 140-006

How does this [§140.430] change Policy Letter 10-06?

Policy Letter 10-06 “Carriage of Lifesaving and Firefighting Equipment on board Uninspected Towing Vessels in Excess of Subchapter C Requirements” will be superseded by Subchapter M no later than 20 July 2018 or the date the vessel obtains a COI, whichever is earlier as per 46 CFR 140.105. The wearing of work vests is stipulated per §140.430.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 28 Feb 2017

140-007

Can the Coast Guard clarify what an “industrial type first aid cabinet or kit” is?

The intent of the statement “industrial type first aid cabinet or kit” is to convey description of durability in rough environment and not to produce a small first aid kit during inspection that would only care for a house hold of people. Must contain proper inventory for care of all crew, while also taking into consideration of the operating conditions “take blood pressure readings, splint broken bones, and apply large bandages for serious wounds”.

§140.435 First aid equipment.

Each towing vessel must be equipped with an industrial type first aid cabinet or kit, appropriate to the size of the crew and operating conditions. Each towing vessel operating on oceans, coastwise, or Great Lakes routes must have a means to take blood pressure readings, splint broken bones, and apply large bandages for serious wounds.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 28 Dec 2016

140-008

The Coast Guard should clarify that the health and safety plan may be incorporated into a vessel operator's TSMS.

The Coast Guard expects that the Health and Safety Plan (HSP) elements would be specifically addressed in a TSMS for a vessel that chooses that option, per 46 CFR 138.220(b). For vessels choosing the Coast Guard Option the HSP would likely be a stand-alone document. As a reminder, the plans are not due until July 22, 2019 in accordance with § 140.500(b).

Received Jun 2016

Answered 6 Feb 2017

140-009

The Coast Guard should clarify that this is not an affirmative requirement for companies to obtain and maintain crewmembers' medical records, and specify how long medical records that are kept by the company must be maintained.

46 CFR 140.505, the owner or managing operator must maintain records of health and safety incidents that occur on board the vessel, including any medical records associated with the incidents. Upon request, the owner or managing operator must provide crewmembers with incident reports and the crewmember's own associated medical records.

This is also discussed in the preamble, middle column of page 40043:

“The intent of the requirement was to ensure that owners or managing operators retain records of injuries occurring in the course or scope of employment as a result of a health and safety incident on board the vessel. However, we believe the health and safety plan required under § 140.500 already includes record keeping procedures addressing this issue.”

The requirement is to maintain the medical records associated with the individual incident and not a catalog of the employee's extended medical history. The length of time records will be kept should be addressed in the health and safety plan as per § 140.500(a).

Received Jun 2016

Answered 6 Mar 2017

140-010

Can the Coast Guard clarify what is meant by “in a manner that minimizes risk of injury or death” in §140.505(b)?

The requirements in § 140.505 are the broad overarching principles behind the creation of the Health and Safety Plan. The risks associated and the actual “manner” in which the machinery, towing gear, etc. are to be used should be identified and discussed with any mitigating factors necessary as required by § 140.510.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 16 Feb 2017

140-011**Does “sanitary condition” refer to a standard?**

Response: No. As discussed in the preamble to the regulation, middle column of page 40043, and per 46 CFR 140.510(a)(13), it is the owner or managing operator’s responsibility to establish policies regarding sanitation and safe food handling. However, § 137.220(k), when discussing the scope of a survey, provides as part of its description of a sanitary examination, “to ensure that they are clean and decently habitable.”

Received Jun 2016**Answered 20 Mar 2017****140-012****The Coast Guard should allow companies to train crewmembers prior to their use of equipment as an alternative to within five days of employment.**

We disagree with your comment.

The training required by 46 CFR 140.515(c) for new employees not only requires training on certain equipment such as personal protective equipment (PPE) but also requires training on various company safety procedures. The Coast Guard believes that knowledge of these procedures is essential in ensuring the safety of all company employees.

Companies are free to implement procedures that require personnel to be trained on specific equipment prior to that equipment’s use, in addition to but not as an alternative to complying with 46 CFR 140.515(c).

Received Jun 2016**Answered 6 Feb 2017****140-013****§140.515(d). The Coast Guard should clarify the requirement to provide annual refresher training. Must refresher training be given on each of the subjects identified in 140.515(a) every year?**

Yes. The refresher training does not need to be as in-depth as the initial training required in §140.515(a), but must be done annually. These annual training requirements parallel or mirror comparable OSHA requirements which currently apply to UTV’s (29 CFR 1910). Companies have the ability to tailor this training based on identified risk. Annual refresher training as required in §140.515(d) must be documented as required by §140.515(f).

Received Jun 2016**Answered 16 Feb 2017**

140-014

The Coast Guard should clarify that these requirements apply to hatches, openings, and doors that are designed to be watertight or weathertight. The Coast Guard should explain the applicability of these requirements to doors or bulkheads that were designed to be watertight but have not been operated that way.

As discussed in the preamble to the regulation, left column of page 40044, the Coast Guard believes that watertight integrity and stability is a concern on any vessel, regardless of service or operating area. Towing vessels must be maintained and operated so the watertight integrity and stability of the vessel is not compromised.

We believe that § 140.610 of the regulation as written adequately describes when hatches, openings and exterior doors are to remain closed, and that the intent of the regulation is to be broad enough to account for the varied openings found on towing vessels, and to prevent catastrophic down-flooding. While the regulations afford masters with the flexibility to determine when hatches and openings may be open (§ 140.610 (c) through (f)), these determinations should not be made solely based on convenience.

Requirements for electrical penetrations found in § 143.400 are also consistent with our position that watertight integrity of the vessel must not be compromised.

§ 144.320 discusses watertight and weathertight integrity and requires closure devices suitable for the expected route for all deckhouse and hull penetrations open to the exterior of the vessel and which may allow down-flooding.

For more discussion on watertight doors, see Marine Safety Alert 04-10.

If the vessel plans indicate the bulkhead was designed to be watertight, then watertight doors must be in good working order and closed during voyages. § 144.330 provides that the cognizant OCMI may require review of a vessel's watertight and weathertight integrity. This review may be performed by an individual who meets the requirements of §144.140 (PE, USCG, or ACS). The review may include an examination of a plan that shows the original placement of decks and bulkheads.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 28 Feb 2017

140-015

The Coast Guard should clarify that the lookout requirements are not meant to differ from the requirements of the Inland Rules of the Road.

The requirements of §140.630 in no way alter or change the authority of Rule 5 as it applies to vessels underway. The responsibility for navigational safety rests with the master and mate (pilot) of a towing vessel. Rule 5 of the Navigation Rules (33 CFR 83.05) clearly defines the need to maintain a lookout at all times when underway. §140.630 gives the Master or operator additional guidance to establish additional lookouts should the navigation condition dictate. Additionally, §140.630 provides owners and managing operators clear expectations that the decision to maintain a proper lookout is dictated by the operational environment and is at the discretion of the master or mate.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 21 Dec 2017

140-016

§140.645 The Coast Guard should clarify that navigation safety training is a one-time training for crewmembers with navigation-related duties.

The periodicity of training for crewmembers with navigation-related duties is not specifically prescribed or defined by this section. However, required training in this part must precede a crewmember assuming duties related to the safe operation of a towing vessel and company training policy must be covered in the TSMS applicable to the vessel.

The Owner or Managing Operator is responsible for maintaining objective evidence that crewmembers have received the appropriate training for their position. This may be a one-time training event for a crewmember; however, additional or periodic training may be necessary if required by a company's TSMS or other company policy. Examples of when additional training may be deemed necessary might include: a mariner's transfer to a different class of vessel or geographic region, a change in position and responsibility on the vessel, or updated company policy affecting watch standing duties.

Credentialed mariners holding Able Seaman (AB) or officer endorsement are deemed to have met the training requirements of this section §140.645(c).

Received Jun 2016

Answered 16 Feb 2017

140-017

Is an apprentice mate (steersman) deemed to have met the training requirements?

As long the mariner in question holds an Officer endorsement on their MMC, the mariner will be deemed to have met sections (d)(1), (3) and (4) of the Emergency Drills and Instruction requirements of 46 CFR 140.420 and the Navigational Safety training requirements of 46 CFR Part 140.645.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 16 Feb 2017

140-018

The Coast Guard should clarify the applicability of MTSA 2002 and ensure that MTSA compliance will not result in redundant inspections on the same vessel within a 5-year window.

During the period of notification of 90 days pre-inspection, it is the responsibility of Owner/Operator and the appropriate Coast Guard Sector to coordinate safety and security inspections to minimize impact on both parties.

H.R.4954 - SAFE Port Act, Public Law No: 109-347 (10/13/2006)(Sec. 103)

Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) to verify, at least twice annually, the effectiveness of a vessel and facility security plan, with at least one of the inspections to be unannounced.

46 CFR 137.200 Documenting compliance for the Coast Guard inspection option.

A towing vessel subject to this subchapter and choosing the Coast Guard inspection option, or required to have the Coast Guard inspection option, must undergo an annual inspection within 3 months before or after the COI anniversary date.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 28 Dec 2016

140-019

Confirm this requirement [46 CFR 140.725(b)] is intended to apply to vessels that are towing ahead, not towing astern.

The requirements of 46 CFR 140.725(b) apply to all towing vessels.

§ 140.725 “Additional Navigation Equipment” states:

“Towing vessels must be equipped with the following equipment...”

(b) “Search light, controllable from the vessel’s operating station and capable of illuminating objects at a distance of at least two times the length of the tow.”

The definition of a “towing vessel” per 46 USC 2101 [40] –General Definitions, means a commercial vessel engaged in or intending to engage in the service of pulling, pushing or hauling alongside, or any combination of pulling, pushing or hauling alongside.”

Nowhere in § 140.725 is there a distinction made between the General Definition of a towing vessel and the question of applicability to vessels that are “towing ahead, not towing astern.”

Further, § 140.725 preamble, pages 40046-40047, does not specify any distinction of applicability of § 140.725 (b) to either towing ahead or towing astern modes within the General Definition of “towing vessel.”

Received Jun 2016

Answered 16 Feb 2017

140-020

The Coast Guard should clarify that the frequency and methodology of towing gear checks may be outlined in a vessel operator’s TSMS are not required each watch.

The term “Towing Gear” encompasses a plethora of tackle, soft lines, wire rope and equipment. These range from fish plates and rated shackles to diesel engine operated winches. The manufacturers of each component have different intervals for preventive maintenance checks and services; adhering to these is good marine practice.

33 CFR 164.74 to 164.80 list what is required to be inspected at a minimum. This should by no means limit the operator from expanding the scope of their program.

The company health and safety plan or TSMS should list what and when these inspections and services should be conducted and logged in the towing vessel record (TVR) or Vessel logbook per 46 CFR 140.820.

46 CFR 140.801 specifies requirements that the master, managing operator, or officer in charge of the navigational watch must ensure for towing gear. Similarly, § 140.805 requires the officer in charge of the navigational watch to ensure, prior to getting underway, elements of towing safety are met. For a vessel using the TSMS option, the TSMS should provide details on these responsibilities.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 21 Dec 2017

140-021

§140.820(b) - The recommendations of TSAC's Towing Gear Subcommittee should be considered an acceptable alternative. What is meant by a "spring line"?

As long as they contain the information required by § 140.820(b), the suggested best practices from the TSAC Final Report on Towing Gear can be used so long as those processes and procedures are outlined in the governing SMS for the vessel as permitted by § 140.820(a). For companies and vessels choosing the Coast Guard option, these procedures should also be able to be provided to an attending CG inspector when the process is questioned.

The term spring line, as also used in 33 CFR 164.76, is a towing connection used in towing alongside evolutions. The configuration of the line in question when used in towing evolutions is similar to the mooring line of the same name. Numerous online and published descriptions and depictions can be found of this configuration.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 20 Mar 2017

140-022

Does the Health and Safety Plan have to be approved?

The health and safety plan does not need to be approved by the CG, however, it must document compliance with 46 CFR 140 Subpart E, and if the plan is found to be unsatisfactory by either the Coast Guard or a TPO, a deficiency will be issued, or the vessel's TSMS could be found to be ineffective.

§140.500 General.

(a) No later than July 22, 2019, the owner or managing operator must implement a health and safety plan. The health and safety plan must document compliance with this part and include recordkeeping procedures.

(b) The owner, managing operator, or master must ensure that all persons on board a towing vessel comply with the health and safety plan.

Received Jun 2016

Answered 11 Apr 2017

140-023

Within a TSMS, are operators permitted to specify their own electronic record keeping methods that are "functionally equivalent" to signatures?

Yes. See 46 CFR 140.915 (b).

Received 25 Jul 2016

Answered 20 Mar 2017

140-024

If an official logbook is not required, and an electronic TVR or other TSMS solution is used, must the electronic record have the capacity to record strikethroughs, deletions, name of person making the change, date and time I.A.W 140.915(b).

46 CFR 140.910 & 915(b)

Yes. For the TVR requirement, the vessel owner or managing operator has the option of maintaining it electronically or on paper, and for towing vessels with a TSMS, the required records may be maintained in another record specified by the TSMS. It is essential for maritime safety that data we require in §140.915 be recorded.

§140.915(b) allows for items to be electronically recorded in a TVR or other record as specified by the TSMS applicable to the towing vessel. §140.915(b) requires for electronic records to include the date and time of entry and name of the person making the entry. If an error is discovered making the entry, any entries to correct the error must include the date and time of entry and name of the person making the correction and must preserve a record of the original entry being corrected.

With regards to making false or late entries, it is noted that under 18 U.S.C 1001, whoever knowingly and willfully makes a materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation with respect to reports, records, or verifications required by Subchapter M regulations, may be subject to criminal penalties.

The owner or managing operator of the towing vessel has the latitude to tailor their TSMS to define method in which to capture the necessary information as per the regulations, and must make the necessary provisions to capture the updates, deletions and changes as required in this subchapter, to include the use of electronic recording.

It would be prudent for the owner/managing operator, if using an electronic recording data base system, to ensure sufficient storage capacity and cyber protection for its electronic data records.

Received 14 Jun 2016

Answered 16 Feb 2017

140-025

Are Coast Guard approved Bridge Resource Management courses required for master, mate, pilot credential holders under Sub Chapter M?

Yes, in accordance with Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW). There is no requirement under Subchapter M.

46 CFR 11.463 General requirements for national endorsements as master, mate (pilot), and apprentice mate (steersman) of towing vessels.

(f) Deck officers who serve on the following seagoing vessels must comply with the requirements of §11.309 (Requirements to qualify for an STCW endorsement as Officer in charge of a navigational watch (OICNW) of vessels of 500 GT or more (operational level)) and §11.311 (Requirements to qualify for an STCW endorsement as master of vessels of 500 GT or more and less than 3,000 GT (management level)) of this subpart for the appropriate STCW endorsement:

- (1) A towing vessel on an oceans voyage operating beyond near-coastal waters.
- (2) A towing vessel on an international voyage.
- (3) A towing vessel of 200 GRT or more on a domestic, near-coastal voyage.

(g) Endorsements as mate (pilot) or master of towing vessels may be issued with a restriction to specific types of towing vessels and/or towing operations such as articulated tug barge (ATB) vessels that do not routinely perform all of the tasks identified in the Towing Officer Assessment Record (TOAR).

(h) Figure 11.463(h) illustrates the towing officer endorsement structure, including crossover points. The section numbers on the diagram refer to the specific requirements applicable.

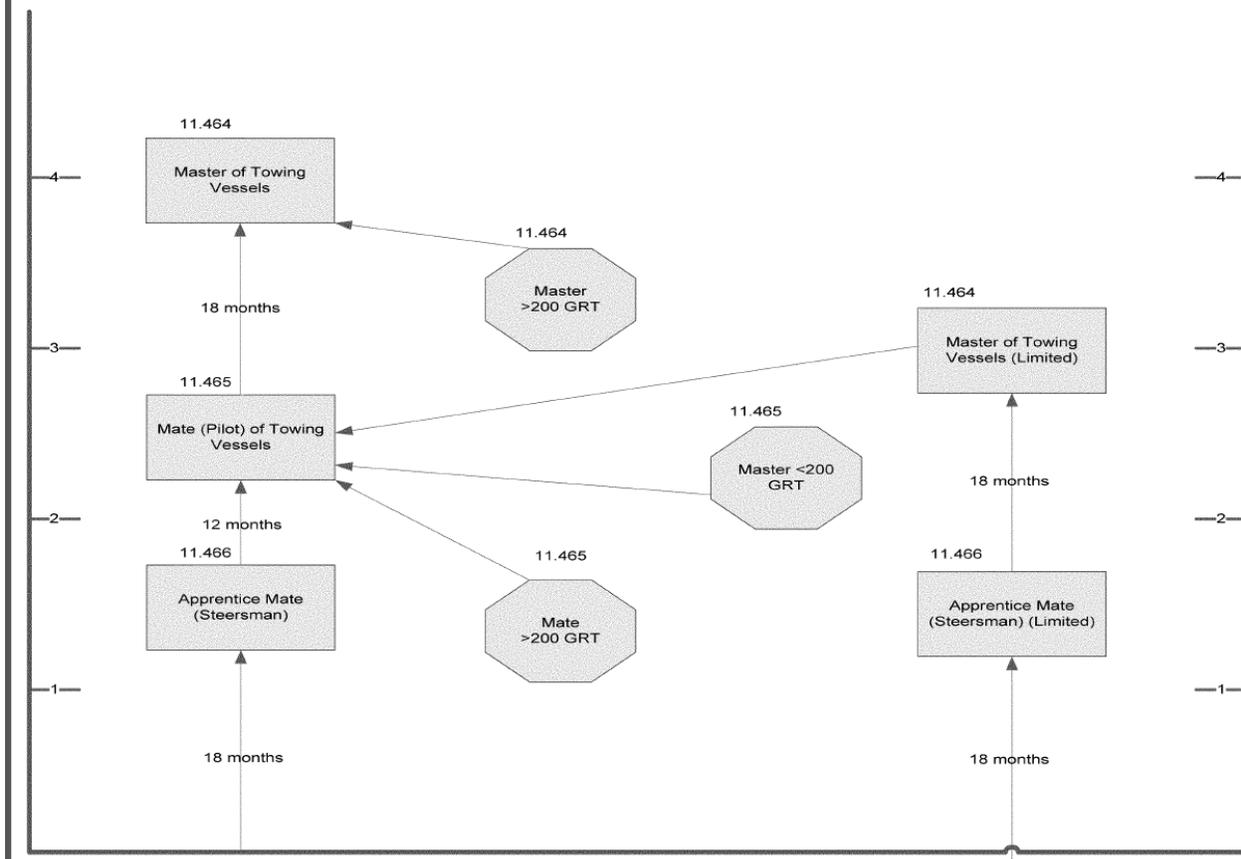
46 CFR 11.321 Requirements to qualify for an STCW endorsement as officer in charge of a navigational watch (OICNW) of vessels of less than 500 GT limited to near-coastal waters (operational level).

(a) To qualify for an STCW endorsement as OICNW, an applicant must—

(3) Provide evidence of having satisfactorily completed approved training in the following subject areas:

- (iv) Bridge resource management;

Figure 11.463 (h) -- Structure of towing officer endorsements



Received 29 Jun 2016

Answered 28 Dec 2016

140-026

Are vessels in compliance with the River Rules exempt from general alarm and other Sub Chapter M requirements not found in the River Rules?

No. A towing vessel inspected under Subchapter M must meet all the requirements listed in Subchapter M unless specifically excepted or exempted by regulation. For example, a general alarm is required under 46 CFR 143.235 unless the vessel is an excepted vessel as defined in 46 CFR 136.110.

Received 21 Jun 2016

Answered 6 Feb 2017

140-027

Is a navigation assessment required if the vessel is pushed up against the bank and is getting back underway?

Yes. Towing vessels are a class of vessels that have different and unique operational risks. The requirements of 46 CFR 140.635 provide guidance and requirements to ensure proper planning is conducted and to ensure sufficient resources, personnel and equipment are available to mitigate the identified risks. Navigation assessments prior to getting underway or while underway will ensure that officers in charge of the navigation watch have the most up to date information in order to assess operational risks as well as to anticipate and manage workload demands during the voyage.

Navigation assessments have value not only for large areas or prolonged duration but also for transits in smaller areas or of short duration; shorter transits may also contain risks such as bridges, high winds, or swift currents. These activities reflect best practice of prudent seamanship.

Received 21 Jun 2016

Answered 6 Feb 2017

140-028

When are new tests/inspections required?

Most testing and inspection requirements applicable to towing vessels are contained within 33 CFR 164 and numerous parts of 46 CFR Subchapter M. It is recommended that vessel operators review the regulations to determine which testing and inspection requirements are applicable to their vessels and implement those tests and inspections into their safety management systems to ensure compliance with the requirements.

Received 21 Jun 2016

Answered 16 Feb 2017

140-029

Whenever downstreaming operations are taking place, Sub M states that main deck doors have to be closed. This may be overly restrictive.

Yes, 46 CFR 140.610(e) states that all exterior openings on the main deck level must be closed when downstreaming. As discussed in the preamble to the regulation, page 40044 first and second columns, there is a sufficient body of historical evidence regarding towing vessel casualties in which the cause of the casualty was the lack of watertight integrity of the towing vessel. We have provided appropriate exceptions to the requirements in § 140.610(c)(1)-(3) to give sufficient flexibility to the vessel's master for crew comfort and convenience.

Received 9 Aug 2016

Answered 6 Feb 2017

140-030**What MARSEC placards are required and are terrorist locks required on towing vessels?**

MTSA 33 CFR 104 Regulated Vessel: Vessels must adhere to the requirements of 33 CFR 104.265 Security measures for access control.

Alternate Security Program (ASP) Vessel: Vessels must fully implement the ASP into the vessels operations (33 CFR 104.140 Alternative Security Programs). Please refer to vessel specific ASP for implementation guidance.

Received 15 Sep 2016**Answered 28 Dec 2016****140-031****When is a Marine Chemist certificate needed on a M vessel?**

A Marine Chemist certificate is required prior to making alterations, repairs, or other such operations involving riveting, welding, burning or like fire producing actions onboard a tow vessel in the locations specified by §140.665(b). Inspections and issuance of certificates required must be conducted in accordance with the provision of NFPA 306.

However, if the services of such certified marine chemist are not reasonably available; refer to §140.665(c)(1) & (2).

Due to the hazards associated with confined space entry, a marine chemist certificate is required prior to entry of the space by a Coast Guard inspector. Vessel owners and operators should ensure that understanding of the proper safety procedures for issuing and maintaining Marine Chemist certificates are followed.

Received 15 Sep 2016**Answered 6 Feb 2017**

140-034

140.645 states that “prior to assuming duties related to safe operation of a towing vessel, each crewmember must receive...” Is this training required once in their employment, once per hitch, once for each position, or once per watch? Where are the records kept? Are they made available during the vessel audit or management audit?

The Coast Guard does not prescribe detailed requirements for training elements contained in this section. Training periodicity requirements are not prescribed; however, required training in this section must precede a crewmember assuming duties related to the safe operation of a towing vessel.

The Owner or Managing Operator is responsible for maintaining objective evidence that crewmembers have received the appropriate training for their position. Credentialed mariners holding Able Seaman (AB) or officer endorsement are deemed to have met the training requirements of this section (§ 140.645(c)).

Any training provided to the crew in accordance with this section must be recorded in the towing vessel record, official logbook, or in accordance with procedures within the TSMS if applicable to the vessel § 140.645(b). Records are to be available upon request by the Coast Guard or an attending TPO. Auditors must also be given access to any requested documentation, to include training records, as per §§ 138.405(d) and 138.410(c).

Received 7 Oct 2016

Answered 6 Feb 2017

140-035

What is “similar” to a U.S. Coast Pilot?

Aside from the Army Corps of Engineers Regional Supplements, there is no parallel informational source for “brown water”.

Received 7 Oct 2016

Answered 4 Dec 2017

140-036

What are the change of watch requirements for inspected towing vessels under subchapter M?

46 CFR 140.640 describes the responsibilities of the officer in charge of a navigational watch. In accordance with §140.640(b), prior to assuming duties as officer in charge of a navigational watch, a person must:

- (1) Complete the navigation assessment required by § 140.635;
- (2) Verify the operational condition of the towing vessel; and
- (3) Verify that there are adequate personnel available to assume the watch.

The minimum requirements of a navigation assessment are listed under §140.635(a) and should be recorded in accordance with § 140.635(d).

Received 16 Jan 2017

Answered 3 July 2017

140-037

In the next 3-5 years we will be converting our fleet of 20 + tugboat from un-inspected to inspected vessels. We have 7 load lined vessels. I cannot seem to find any information on the requirements for the vessel Station Bills pertaining to Sub Chapter M.

46 CFR 140.405 discusses crewmember responsibilities during emergencies, to include emergency duties, duty stations, and posting requirements.

Received 16 Jan 2017

Answered 3 July 2017

140-039

§140.630 states that “a lookout in addition to the master or mate (pilot) should be added when necessary...” (1) Must this supplemental lookout be logged in the TVR in accordance with §140.400(c)? (2) Would deckhands posted on the head of a tow for the purposes of transiting a lock (or guiding a tow into a fleet) be considered supplemental lookouts?

(1) Yes, the lookout must be logged in the TVR, official logbook, or in accordance with the TSMS applicable to the vessel. (2) Yes, deckhands posted by the master or mate (pilot) on the head of a tow to aid in safe navigation are considered lookouts provided they have sufficient communications with the wheelhouse.

Received 27 Feb 2017

Answered 27 Aug 2018

140-040

Will the CG issue a COI to a towing vessel unable to exhibit proper navigational lights and shapes as specified in 33 CFR Part 84?

The Coast Guard will require towing vessels subject to Subchapter M to meet the navigation light, shape, and sound signal requirements of §140.720 prior to issuing the vessel's COI.

Received 3 March 2017

Answered 21 Dec 2017

140-043

I've noticed a change in the definition of Western Rivers which would cause the requirement for a fathometer installed on vessels operating on the Western Rivers to be invalid. In the proposed rule the definition of Western Rivers did not include 89.27, which the final rule does include.

The discussion and comments on page 40047 suggest the intent is to require a fathometer on Western Rivers, but the definition suggest otherwise.

46 CFR 140.725(a) exempts vessels operating on the Western Rivers from being equipped with a fathometer. While discussion in the Preamble, middle column of page 40047, may be interpreted as contradicting this when discussing the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, the regulatory requirement is unchanged as well as the definition of Western Rivers provided in FAQ 136-034.

Received 11 Apr 2017

Answered 18 May 2017

140-046

Will the TVNCOE develop a template or checklist of what is to be included in a Health and Safety Plan? Is the intent of the plan to describe methods, processes, procedures, and policies in place that prove compliance with Part 140?

There are no plans to publish templates or checklists; existing regulations establish the minimum requirements for Health and Safety Plans. Components required by Subpart E of Subchapter M should be incorporated into a TSMS. For vessels using the CG option, a Health and Safety plan may be a stand-alone component which documents compliance with Subpart E. Under either option, the requirements of Subpart E must be addressed.

Received 14 Apr 2017

Answered 4 Aug 2017

140-049

Man Overboard and the recovery of the person from the water is discussed in multiple sections of Subchapter M, including § 140.420, 140.425, 140.500, and 141.225.

Could we please have one statement of clarification on the requirements?

Something like:

All towing vessels, whether using the TSMS or Coast Guard Inspection option, must have some method and appropriate device(s) if needed, to be able to promptly recover a helpless person in the water, and provide training of crewmembers responsible for the recovery."

We disagree, while man overboard and recovery of persons in the water are discussed throughout parts 140 and 141, the context of each part is different. §140.420 includes requirements for emergency drills, §140.425 requires procedures for the prevention of man overboard and recovery of persons in the water, §140.500 discusses the contents of the health and safety plan, and §141.225 discusses the approval of alternate arrangements or equipment.

Received 27 Apr 2017

Answered 13 Sep 2017

140-050

Vessels over 65' are required to have a fog bell at least 11.8" in diameter. If the vessel's PA is on a battery backup, will that suffice as a sound producer?

Yes, the PA system will suffice as a sound producer providing it has the same respective sound characteristics as a bell and manual sounding of the prescribed signals is always possible. In addition, the system must produce a sound pressure level of not less than 110 dB at 1 meter.

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Answered 27 Aug 2018