

Sector Houston-Galveston
Marine Safety Information Bulletin
MSIB 13-09

MARPOL Reception Facility Inadequacies

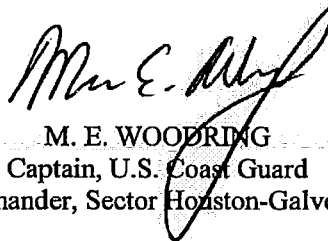
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In recent months, the Coast Guard received complaints alleging that certain waterfront facilities within the Sector Houston-Galveston area of responsibility were not in compliance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 158. Risks associated with visiting vessels are driven upwards as excess amounts of waste oil and garbage remain onboard. All commercial facilities which receive oceangoing vessels have the responsibility to provide means of accepting wastes and respond to a vessel's request to have such wastes removed. As witnessed by recent casualties, when these wastes are removed, port risks involving fire and pollution are lessened.

In October 2007, Sector Houston-Galveston circulated MSIB 08-07. Since this document was circulated, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) published documents which provide methods to ensure the completion of uniform records throughout the world regarding the transfer of wastes between a vessel and a facility. The first document, entitled "Standard Format of the Advanced Notification Form for Waste Delivery to Port Reception Facilities," is intended to be used by vessels to notify port facilities of their need to discharge wastes. The second form, entitled "Standard Format for the Waste Delivery Receipt," is intended to be used by facilities to document their receipt of wastes and to return a signed copy of this form to the vessel. The third form, entitled "Revised Consolidated Format for Reporting Alleged Inadequacies of Port Reception Facilities," is intended to be used by vessels to report difficulties in discharging wastes to reception facilities in order that authorities may engage. These forms are included within the IMO circular "Guide to Good Practice for Port Reception Facility Providers and Users" (MEPC.1/Circ.671) which is attached to this MSIB. This IMO circular outlines how the shipping community and reception facility providers can best conduct their operations in order to comply with MARPOL and to facilitate efficient, environmentally responsible disposal of wastes.

Coast Guard marine inspectors throughout Sector Houston-Galveston will continue enforcement efforts to ensure facilities are meeting their responsibility to facilitate the removal of oily mixtures, Noxious Liquid Substance residues and garbage in accordance with 33 CFR Part 158. These inspectors will ask that vessels provide a completed MEPC 1/Circular 644 to help validate complaints of inadequate or unavailable waste reception. Similarly, these inspectors will ask facilities for a completed MEPC 1/Circular 645 to document instances where they have exercised operations documented within their Certificates of Adequacy.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact LCDR Norbert John Pail at (713) 671-5197.



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