

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer
Marine Safety Office Pittsburgh
United States Coast Guard

Kossman Bldg., Ste. 1150
100 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa 15222
Staff Symbol:
Phone: (412) 644-5808
Fax: (412) 644-3479

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MSO PITTSBURGH INFORMATION BULLETIN

Uninspected Towing Vessel Fire Suppression Equipment Requirements

United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Pittsburgh would like to remind all towing vessel owners and operators that the deadline for the installation of fire suppression systems on your tow vessels is Friday, April 29, 2005. These requirements can be found in 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 27.301 and 27.303. These requirements apply to *all towing vessels* operating on the navigable waters of the United States unless exempted under 46 CFR Part 27.100(b). All exemptions must be requested in writing, to the Captain of the Port Pittsburgh, in sufficient time to review your request and furnish a response prior to the April 29, 2005 deadline. The following items are required as of April 29, 2005:

- A self-priming, power-driven, fixed fire pump, a fire main, and hoses and nozzles; **or**
- A self-priming, power driven portable pump with hoses and nozzles.

And

- A semi-portable B-V fire-extinguishing system installed to protect the engine room; **or**
- A fixed fire extinguishing system to protect the engine room

Please read and familiarize yourself with the specifications for this equipment to ensure your vessels are in full compliance. Failure to comply with these requirements may lead to the assessment of civil penalties and/or termination of vessel operations until compliance is met.

If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact Chief Warrant Officer Shane Laws at 412-644-5808 ext. 2119.

W. W. Briggs
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Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection