



Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information April 2020



Allegheny River

Ninth Street Bridge (0.8): Due to planned work, the vertical clearance may be reduced more than one foot below low steel. Mariners are urged to transit with caution. Estimated completion is August of 2020.

Ohio River

Wellsburg Bridge (75.5): Trestle and cofferdam installation underway. The new bridge will provide a minimum of 800 feet of horizontal clearance. Environmental review underway.

Ninth Street Bridge (90.8): Rehabilitation and painting. Vertical clearance reduced by 4 inches until Oct. 2022.

Bellaire Bridge (94.3): Demolition date to be determined.

Tygart River

1-79 Twin Bridges Replacement (2.6): Pre-application stage.

Areas of Interest

- 1. MSIB 09-20 Vessel Inspections, Exams, and Documentation:** The Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy has published [Marine Safety Information Bulletin 09-20](#) "Vessel Inspections, Exams, and Documentation". The uninterrupted flow of commerce on our Marine Transportation System (MTS) is critical to both National Security and National economic well-being. During this National emergency for COVID-19 it is paramount that the Coast Guard safeguards the continued operation of the MTS to ensure our domestic supply chain continues uninterrupted. Commercial vessel compliance activities should, to the extent possible, continue so as to safeguard the MTS and prevent an undue backlog from causing future delays. To facilitate the safe flow of commerce, the Coast Guard will liberally use remote inspection techniques to verify vessel compliance and, if needed, defer inspections. The following is the Coast Guard's current position on commercial vessel compliance activities:

Prior to boarding a vessel or immediately prior to conducting a pre-exam/inspection meeting, Marine Inspectors, Port State Control Officers (PSCOs), and Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners will verify with the vessel representative that there are no ill persons onboard. Coast Guard personnel will practice the appropriate protective measures as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

U.S. Flagged Vessel and Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Inspections:

U.S. flagged vessels and OCS units due for Certificate of Inspection (COI) Renewals, Annual Inspections, Periodic Inspections, Dry Dock Exams, and Internal Structural Examinations (ISE) that are based on statutory or regulatory requirements should be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the local OCMI. Based on the OCMI's evaluation of the history of the vessel and in consultation with the vessel owner or operator, the OCMI may:



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- Require Coast Guard attendance onboard the vessel to conduct a full or abbreviated inspection;
- Accept objective evidence such as recent classification surveys, pictures, video, vessel logs, machinery alarm reports, etc., in lieu of Coast Guard attendance onboard the vessel to credit a required inspection or exam. (A dry dock, pressure vessel, or other non-annual exam may only be credited for a maximum of one year.);
- Defer a required inspection or exam for up to 90 days; or
- Issue a CG Form CG-835V to restrict the vessel movement as a worklist item.

Recognized Organizations (ROs) and Third Party Organizations (TPOs) that are conducting surveys and audits on behalf of the Coast Guard may request extensions on a case-by-case basis on behalf of the vessel owner or operator. This includes both internal and external surveys for those companies/vessels subject to Subchapter M requirements. Surveys and audits that require travel to or through high-risk affected areas will generally constitute sufficient reason for the Coast Guard to grant an extension. When evaluating if an extension will be granted, the OCMI or the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance (CG-CVC) will evaluate the vessel's history of compliance and may require objective evidence to verify if the vessel complies with the applicable laws and regulations. Any extension of a statutory or regulatory required survey or audit will be documented in writing by the RO/TPO and should generally not be more than 90 days. ROs/TPOs that seek to use remote survey in lieu of attendance on vessels that are both classed and certificated should contact the Flag State Control Division (CG-CVC-4) or the Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise (TVNCOE) to propose the methods and administrative procedures that will be used. Extension requested for vessels subject to Subchapter M requirements should be relayed by the TPO to the OCMI.

The same allowances should be considered for companies that are required to complete internal vessel and management audits as required by ISM or TSMS. These companies should work through their RO/TPO for extension requests; however, extensions granted for this work is not required to be reported to the CG, but rather documented by company and RO/TPO.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/03/27/msib-09-20-vessel-inspections-exams-and-documentation/>

2. **Subchapter M Enforcement Posture For COI Phase In Requirements:** The [Office of Commercial 2. Vessel Compliance](#) announced the publication of [CG-CVC Policy Letter 20-01](#), "*Subchapter M Enforcement Posture for Certificate of Inspection (COI) Phase-In Requirements*," dated February 20, 2020.

This policy letter provides guidance regarding the enforcement posture for towing vessels' COI phase-in requirements within 46 CFR §136.202. As of July 20, 2018, towing vessels subject to inspection under 46 CFR Subchapter M must be in compliance with the requirements of the subchapter, even if the vessel has not yet received a Coast Guard-issued COI. With each subsequent scheduled phase-in date, regardless of inspection option chosen, companies with vessels selected in accordance with this policy that have not been issued a COI in accordance with the regulations, will be issued a Coast Guard Form CG-835V, for non-compliance.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/02/21/subchapter-m-enforcement-posture-for-coi-phase-in-requirements/>



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