



Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information June 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: Novel Coronavirus – Mariner Credentials – Update (Change 2):** The Coast Guard has published [MSIB 08-20 \(Change 2\)](#) to update guidance concerning mariner credentials, medical certificates and course approvals, and the action being taken by the Coast Guard due to the novel coronavirus and the disease it causes (COVID-19). We are doing this in keeping with national guidance to meet the challenge of this disease and in response to a number of questions and concerns raised by the maritime industry and mariners. The provisions in this MSIB are consistent with the Executive Order on Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery issued on May 19, 2020. To mitigate the impact to the seafarers and the industry caused by the novel coronavirus disease COVID-19, the Coast Guard is taking the following actions:
 - **Regional Exam Centers and Monitoring Units.** Regional Examination Centers and Monitoring Units will remain closed until further notice. Mariners with questions may contact the National Maritime Center (NMC) by calling the Customer Service Center at 1-888-IASKNMC, emailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or through the NMC online chat system.
 - **National Endorsements:** Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC) and Medical Certificates (National Endorsements only) that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 are extended until December 31, 2020. Mariners who are actively working on expired credentials that meet the expiration criteria must carry the expired credential with a copy of this notice. This measure relaxes the requirement to carry an unexpired medical certificate and not the actual medical standards. It is important that mariners with disqualifying medical conditions do not sail.
 - **STCW Endorsements:** MMCs with STCW endorsements that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 are extended until December 31, 2020. Mariners who are actively working on expired credentials that meet the expiration criteria must carry the expired credential with a copy of this notice.



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- STCW Medical Certificates: STCW Medical Certificates that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 are extended until December 31, 2020. Mariners who are actively working on an expired medical certificate that meet the expiration criteria must carry the expired certificate with a copy of this notice. This measure ONLY relaxes the requirement to carry an unexpired STCW medical certificate and not the actual medical standards. It is important that mariners with disqualifying medical conditions do not sail
- Additional administrative measures: The following items that expire in between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 are extended until December 31, 2020: Additional Information letters, Qualified Assessor letters, Designated Examiner letters, Approval to Test letters, and mariner training course completion certificates.
- Pilot Annual Physical examinations. 46 USC 7101(e)(3) requires that pilots undergo an annual physical examination each year while holding a credential. The Coast Guard does not intend to enforce this requirement given the current national emergency and the lack of medical care. This measure ONLY relaxes the requirement for an annual physical and not the actual medical standards. This posture applies until December 31, 2020 irrespective of when the medical certificate expires. It is important that pilots with disqualifying medical conditions do not sail.
- Course and Program Approvals.
 - Course and program approvals that expire between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 are extended for six months from their current expiration date. This MISB serves as formal notification of the extension. The NMC will not issue new course approval letters or certificates. NMC will update internal records to ensure the acceptance of course completion certificates issued during the extension and that the website reflects appropriate information.
 - The NMC will continue to work with training providers on a case-by-case basis to implement alternate training delivery methods, including distance learning or blended learning. Approved requests and new requests for alternate training delivery methods will be valid until December 31, 2020 for the knowledge-based online course material. All testing, practical assessments, and labs associated with these courses must be completed no later than 6 months from the completion of the knowledge-based portion of the training. This MSIB serves as the extension for previously approved courses using alternate delivery methods.

Please be aware that these measures may cause a backlog in the processing of credentials and course approvals, especially near the end of the extension dates. Mariners are strongly encouraged to fulfill the requirements and submit their application as early as possible in order to avoid a lapse in their credential. Similarly, training providers need to make every effort to submit their application early to avoid expiration of their current approval.

The NMC may issue additional guidance on these extensions and other administrative measures consistent with this MSIB. This guidance will be posted at <https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/>. If you have questions, visit the NMC website, or contact the NMC Customer Service Center by using the NMC online chat system, by e-mailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662). Questions about this bulletin should be directed to OutbreakQuestions@uscg.mil.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/06/04/msib-novel-coronavirus-mariner-credentials-update-change-2/>



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- 2. Amendments to Requirements Regulating Personnel Permitted to Serve as Person in Charge of Fuel Transfers on Inspected Vessels:** Effective immediately, the Coast Guard has amended the requirements regulating personnel permitted to serve as a person in charge (PIC) of fuel oil transfers on an inspected vessel by adding the option of using a letter of designation (LOD) in lieu of a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) with a Tankerman-PIC endorsement. The LOD designates the holder as a person in charge (PIC) of the transfer of fuel oil and states that the holder has received sufficient formal instruction from the operator or agent of the vessel to ensure his or her ability to safely and adequately carry out the duties and responsibilities of the PIC. Obtaining an MMC with a Tankerman-PIC endorsement is now optional for PICs of fuel oil transfers on inspected vessels. This rule does not change the existing requirements for the PIC on uninspected vessels, and the requirements for vessels transferring cargo also remains unchanged.

The Person In Charge of Fuel Oil Transfers Rule can be viewed in its entirety on the [Federal Register](#), or search docket number [USCG-2018-0493](#) on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

For information about this document call or email Cathleen Mauro, Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing (CG-MMC-1), Coast Guard; telephone 202-372-1449, email Cathleen.B.Mauro@uscg.mil. <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/05/31/amendments-to-requirements-regulating-personnel-permitted-to-serve-as-person-in-charge-of-fuel-oil-transfers-on-inspected-vessels/>

- 3. MSIB: Novel Coronavirus – Update (Change 5):** An outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to affect mariners and maritime commerce. Vessel arriving to or traveling between any U.S. port or place must follow reporting and infection control measures to maintain the safety of personnel onboard vessels as well as within the port.

Vessel Reporting Requirements:

Illness of a person onboard any vessel that may adversely affect the safety of a vessel or port facility is a hazardous condition per 33 CFR 160.216 and must be reported immediately to the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP). Cases of persons who exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must be reported to the COTP. This requirement is separate and additional to any other required Coast Guard or Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting, and applies to vessels departing from or arriving to any port or place in the U.S., includes internal waters, the territorial seas, and deep water ports.

In addition to Coast Guard reporting requirements, 42 CFR 71.21 requires vessels destined for a U.S. port to report to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) any sick or deceased crew/passengers 15 days prior to arrival at the U.S. port. Guidance to vessels to report deaths and illnesses to the CDC can be found at: [Cargo vessels and Cruise ships](#). U.S. flagged commercial vessels are also advised to report ill crewmembers in accordance with the requirements of each foreign port called upon. Further, 42 CFR 70.4 states the master of any vessel or person in charge of any conveyance engaged in interstate traffic, on



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which a case or suspected case of a communicable disease develops shall, as soon as practicable, notify the local health authority at the next port of call, station, or stop, and shall take such measures to prevent the spread of the disease as the local health authority directs.

See [MSIB 06-20](#), "Vessel Reporting Requirements for Illness or Death", for further information.

Onboard Precautions for COVID-19:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their [Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected Coronavirus Disease 2019](#). This guidance includes measures to prevent infection in crew members, recommended PPE, cleaning and disinfection, how to manage sick passengers or crew.

Vessel owners and operators are encouraged to develop procedures to prevent, respond, and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on board vessels. These plans should include the applicable aspects of the CDC guidance as well as any additional requirements of local health agencies.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/05/29/msib-novel-coronavirus-update-change-5/>