



Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information May 2022



Ohio River

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: Suspension of USCG inspection fees for TSMS Option – Subchapter M Towing Vessels:

Effective March 15, 2022, the U.S. Coast Guard may not charge vessel inspection user fees for towing vessels using the Towing Safety Management System (TSMS) option for documenting compliance with Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subchapter M. TSMS option vessel owners who have received an invoice for a period after March 15, 2022 should not remit payment to the Coast Guard's Financial Center (FINCEN).

This action is directed by Sec. 231 of the [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022](#) (FY22 Omnibus), which was signed into law on March 15, 2022. The FY22 Omnibus prohibits the Coast Guard from charging inspection user fees for TSMS option towing vessels until the requirements of Section 815 of the [Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018](#), Public Law 115-282 (CGAA 2018) are met, including the update of TSMS option inspection user fees.

The Coast Guard has initiated a rulemaking to revise its inspection user fees for towing vessels regulated under 46 CFR Subchapter M. Under this proposed rule, vessels using the TSMS option will pay a lower fee than vessels that use the Coast Guard inspection option. The Coast Guard published the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) on January 11, 2022, and the comment period closed on April 11, 2022.

The Coast Guard is currently updating its financial system to suspend the processing of user fee invoices. In the interim, TSMS option owners may receive a notification that user fee payment is due. Please disregard any invoice for inspection fees incurred after March 15, 2022, for vessels certificated under the TSMS option of 46 CFR Subchapter M. Further notice will be sent to correct any discrepancies. Please note that the FY22 Omnibus does not prohibit collection of user fees that were due before March 15, 2022.

Please send questions regarding vessel inspection fee payment, billing, appeals, and refunds to the USCG Finance Center (FINCEN) via FIN-SMB-CustomerService@uscg.mil or visit this website for more information at <https://www.uscg.mil/fincen/VIF/>



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2. MSIB: COVID-19 Safety Requirements in the Maritime Transportation System: Change-5

The Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy has published Marine Safety Information Bulletin 02-21 Change 5 “COVID-19 Safety Requirements in the Maritime Transportation System”.

Update

On April 18, 2022, the US District Court, Middle District of Florida, vacated the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mandate for mask wear in airports, train stations, and other transportation hubs as well as on airplanes, buses, trains, and most other public conveyances in the United States, including vessels. Per this ruling, the CDC has declared that the mandate is no longer in effect. Federal agencies are reviewing the court’s decision. In the interim the Coast Guard will not enforce the directives requiring mask use on public transportation and in transportation hubs. CDC continues to recommend that people wear masks in indoor public transportation settings.

Vessel and sea port operators are encouraged to monitor the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/> for the most up to date guidance. The CDC has published an updated list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) that can be found at Public Transportation. The Coast Guard has also published additional guidance that can be found at the FAQ web page.