

COMMANDING OFFICER
U.S. COAST GUARD
SECTOR DELAWARE BAY
1 WASHINGTON AVE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147
TEL: (215) 271-4800
FAX: (215) 271-4833

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

[MSIB # 19-09]

July 10, 2009

TOWING VESSEL BRIDGING PROGRAM (TVBP) ANNOUNCEMENT

The Coast Guard has undertaken a regulatory project that will significantly impact the commercial towing industry. On July 10, 2009, a Towing Vessel Bridging Program (TVBP) was implemented to ensure that Coast Guard and towing vessel industry personnel are prepared for the regulatory requirements (Subchapter M – Inspection Requirements for Towing Vessels) that will soon be published.

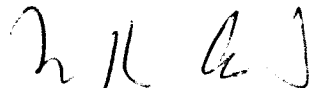
The Coast Guard strongly encourages participation in the TVBP, which focuses on improving Coast Guard-industry partnership efforts, acclimating industry to an inspection-like process, and ensuring compliance with existing Subchapter B and C (46 CFR) requirements. To ensure success, our industry partners should make every effort to schedule voluntary examinations with our program coordinator, Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Oscar Burns.

At the conclusion of a successful voluntary examination, a vessel will receive a Coast Guard Towing Vessel Exam decal valid for three (03) years. Decals are issued based upon compliance with the regulations in effect at the time of the examination.

Additionally, the TVBP includes an industry familiarization program that encourages and supports Coast Guard personnel visiting with towing vessel operators to better understand their business and operational challenges. This voluntary program is key to ensuring our industry partners and Coast Guard personnel maintain a mutual understanding of each other's perspectives.

If you are interested in participating and hosting a local Coast Guard representative at your company, have questions regarding the TVBP initiative, or desire to schedule a safety examination please call CWO Oscar Burns directly at 215-271-4873.

Additional information regarding the TVBP is available on the Coast Guard Homeport website <http://homeport.uscg.mil> .



Meredith L. Austin
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port
USCG Sector Delaware Bay