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D8(dp) Policy Ltr 01-2017

MEMORANDUM

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From: T. J. KAMINSKI, CAPT
CGD EIGHT (dp)

To: Distribution

Subj: TEMPORARY EMERGENCY BERTHING VESSELS

Ref: (a) 46 U. S. Code § 2101(5)(a)
(b) 46 CFR 15 – Manning Requirements
(c) 46 CFR Subchapter C – Uninspected Vessels

1. **PURPOSE.** To provide Eighth District OCMI's guidance when determining suitability of vessels to be used as Temporary Emergency Berthing Vessels for response personnel following natural and man-made disasters. This policy is not intended for berthing displaced citizens aboard temporary emergency berthing vessels.
2. **BACKGROUND.** Gulf Coast disasters, natural and man-made, often create a need for vessels to serve as temporary emergency berthing to support response personnel during recovery efforts. These guidelines are provided in order to promote a satisfactory level of safety for personnel berthed on temporary emergency berthing vessels. OCMI's are encouraged to apply these guidelines when a vessel will be used and consideration is received for the berthing of individuals on board.¹ This policy shall only be used when disaster response and recovery efforts create accommodation shortages for response personnel, or when responder proximity to the response or recovery site is necessary for effective operations.
3. **VESSEL ACTION.** Each vessel owner or representative submitting their vessel for consideration as a temporary emergency berthing vessel shall contact the cognizant U.S. Coast Guard Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) and submit an application for examination. The types of application for examination are detailed as follows:
 - a. U.S. flagged vessels with a current COI, including Subchapter T, K, and H vessels, shall submit a completed Coast Guard form CG-950, Application for Excursion Permit.

¹ In accordance with reference (a), consideration means an economic benefit, inducement, right, or profit including pecuniary payment accruing to an individual, person, or entity, but not including a voluntary sharing of the actual expenses of the voyage, by monetary contribution or donation of fuel, food, beverage, or other supplies.

- b. U.S. flagged vessels with a current COI, including Subchapter I and L vessels, shall submit a completed Coast Guard form CG-3752, Application for Inspection of U.S. Vessel.
- c. Domestic uninspected commercial vessels, or U.S. flagged vessels with expired COIs, shall submit a completed Coast Guard form CG-3752, Application for Inspection of U.S. Vessel.
- d. Each application for examination will address the following items:
 - 1. Physical location of the berthing accommodations aboard the vessel and securing arrangements
 - 2. Physical location of vessel and mooring arrangements
 - 3. Means of escape from accommodation spaces and vessel
 - 4. Lifesaving arrangements
 - 5. Fire fighting arrangements
 - 6. Electrical and piping arrangements
 - 7. Sanitary arrangements
 - 8. Galley/Cooking arrangements

4. **OCMI APPROVAL.** Once the OCMI receives the completed application, a marine inspector will conduct an on-site safety verification examination. If the vessel satisfactorily passes the examination, the OCMI will either issue Coast Guard Form CG-949, Permission to Carry Excursion Party to certificated Subchapter T, K, and H vessels; an amended COI for Subchapter I and L vessels; or a letter of approval (LOA) to uninspected commercial vessels for 60 days. If the vessel owner or representative applies for an extension, a reexamination may be required after 60 days in order to verify the condition of the vessel. A copy of the excursion permit, amended COI, or LOA must be posted near the vessel accesses at all times.

5. **GUIDELINES.**

- a. **Manning Standards.** In accordance with manning requirements prescribed in reference (b), the OCMI will consider requests to reduce required manning standards to allow for berthing of additional personnel on a case-by-case basis.
- b. **U.S. Vessels with valid COIs.** For U.S. flagged vessels that hold a valid COI which authorizes passengers or the carriage of persons in addition to the crew, there is no additional authorization required to berth personnel up to the number of persons permitted on the COI.
- c. **U.S. Vessels with expired COIs.** For U.S. flagged vessels previously certificated to carry passengers or persons in addition to the crew, the following systems and equipment must be installed and in working order in accordance with regulations applicable to the vessel's type and service, and be verified by the OCMI prior to authorizing personnel berthing up to the same number of persons permitted on the most recent COI:

1. Fire protection equipment (fixed and portable)
2. Lifesaving equipment
3. Means of escape from accommodation areas and the dock
4. Passenger accommodations
5. Pollution prevention (including sanitary system)
6. Gangway arrangements
7. Dock lighting and escape arrangements
8. Vessel security
9. Machinery intended for use while passengers are embarked

d. **Domestic Uninspected Vessels.** All uninspected vessels, as defined by 46 CFR 24.10-1, shall meet all applicable sections of reference (c). In addition, all uninspected vessels must meet the following items to the satisfaction of the OCMI. This list includes specific provisions of Subchapter T; however, based on vessel type, size and total number of response personnel being accommodated, additional items from other subchapters may be required based on the individual circumstances found during inspection. Subchapter H cites provided within parenthesis.

1. **Mooring.** In accordance with 46 CFR 184.300 (*46 CFR 77.07-5*), each vessel shall be fitted with ground tackle and mooring lines necessary for the vessel to be safely moored to a shore side facility. Each temporary emergency berthing vessel is prohibited from getting underway with passengers. Vessels shall not be anchored.
2. **Navigation Safety.** In accordance with Navigation Rules, International – Inland, COMDTINST M16672.2(series), each vessel shall display lighting applicable to the vessel's type and operation.
3. **Space requirements.** In accordance with 46 CFR 177.800 and 46 CFR 177.810 (*46 CFR 72.20*), all passenger accommodations must be arranged and equipped to provide for the safety of the passenger. Additionally, a minimum of 30 square feet should be provided for each person berthed on the vessel.
4. **Means of Escape.** In accordance with 46 CFR 177.500 (*46 CFR 72.10-5*), there shall be at least two safe, clear, and protected means of escape provided from any berthing area or accommodation areas to a shore side location clear of potential fire and flooding events.
5. **Manned watch.** In accordance with 46 CFR 185.410 and 46 CFR 185.420 (*46 CFR 78.30-15*), day and night watch personnel shall be trained in and demonstrate the skills necessary to recognize and address potential emergent situations (i.e. fire, flooding, security, etc.). The uniform of these watch personnel shall be conspicuously different from other persons so as to be readily distinguished. The watch personnel shall have in their possession at all times a means to communicate with personnel ashore (and or standby vessels).

6. **General Alarm.** In accordance with 46 CFR 183.550 (*46 CFR 77.05-1*), each vessel must have a way to clearly alert all personnel onboard in a timely manner.
7. **Communications Plan.** In accordance with 46 CFR 185.510, each vessel shall have a communications plan which addresses appropriate port personnel and local fire/emergency service contacts in case of an emergency. The watch personnel shall have a means to be able to contact these emergency contacts at all times.
8. **Fire safety.** In accordance with 46 CFR 181.400(c) (*46 CFR 76.05-1*), all accommodation spaces shall have an installed and operational smoke detector or a smoke actuated fire detecting unit.
9. **Generators and flammable materials.** In accordance with 46 CFR 177.405(c), generators and any spark producing device should be located as far away as practicable from accommodation spaces, especially ventilation intakes. Other flammable materials, such as fuel for portable cooking equipment shall be safely stored as far away as practicable from accommodation spaces and running machinery. In accordance with 46 CFR 181.500(c), A B-V type semi-portable fire extinguisher shall be required where there is no fire pump on the temporary emergency berthing vessel.
10. **Hazardous Ships' Stores.** In accordance with 46 CFR 147, all hazardous materials intended for stowage as ships' stores shall meet requirements for the labeling, stowage, and use of those materials.
11. **Galleys/Cooking equipment.** Galleys, if equipped, must meet the requirements of 46 CFR 72.05-50(h) and 46 CFR 181.500(a) (*46 CFR 76.50-10*). Portable cooking equipment (i.e., propane grills, camp stoves, etc.) shall be located as far as practicable from berthing locations. Deep fat fryers shall be fitted with a grease extraction hood and a chemical fire extinguishing system that meets NFPA 17 / 17a (see 46 CFR 181.400(d), 181.425). The immediate vicinity of a deep fat fryer shall be kept free of combustible materials (cloth or paper towels, cardboard, etc).
12. **Fire fighting.** In accordance with 46 CFR 181.500(a) (*46 CFR 76.50-10*), there shall be at least one Coast Guard approved portable fire extinguisher for each accommodation/berthing space onboard the vessel and additional fire protection around each generator and fuel tank.
13. **Lifesaving.** In accordance with 46 CFR 180.70 and 46 CFR 180.71 (*46 CFR 77.06-1*), each vessel shall provide a Coast Guard approved life preserver with light and whistle for each person carried and ring buoys as outlined below.
 - a. Life preservers shall be properly distributed throughout the berthing spaces for each person. Work vests are not considered approved life preservers.

- b. Ring buoys shall be evenly distributed throughout the weather deck. Vessels under 196 feet in length must carry at least four (04) life buoys, two (02) of which must have lines and self igniting lights attached. Vessels over 196 feet in length must carry at least eight (08) life buoys, four (04) of which must have lines and self igniting lights attached.

14. **Grey and Black Water pollution prevention.** Zero discharge of grey or black water is authorized without a state permit. All vessels must maintain a grey/black water pollution prevention plan and in accordance with 33 CFR 159, be equipped to handle, store and properly dispose of any sewage and refuse that is collected on board.

15. **Stability.** In accordance with 46 CFR 178.310 (*46 CFR 72.30-1*), due consideration should be given to loss of stability due to topside loading. A letter from a professional naval architect or marine engineer attesting to the stability of the vessel may be required prior to use of the vessel for temporary emergency berthing.

16. **Handrails.** In accordance with 46 CFR 177.900 (*46 CFR 72.40*), all vessels shall have guard rails, bulwarks, or some other fall prevention measures installed on all weather decks and gangways.

17. **Safety Orientation.** In accordance with 46 CFR 185.506, all personnel on board are required to receive a safety orientation of the vessel within 24 hours of reporting aboard, including means of notifying the manned watch in case of an emergency, knowledge of activating the general alarms, location of life saving appliances, and knowledge of egress routes.

e. **Inspected Vessels which want to increase the total number of persons allowed in addition to the crew.** All inspected vessels that intend to install additional berthing spaces on the vessels, must meet the following items to the satisfaction of the OCMI.

1. **Portable Accommodation Modules (PAM).** All PAMs shall be installed and examined in accordance with CG-ENG Policy Letter No. 01-16 – Portable Accommodation Module Guidance. (Enclosure (2))

6. **POINT OF CONTACT.** Questions concerning this policy guidance should be referred to the Eighth Coast Guard District (dpi) at (504) 671-2105.

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Encl: (1) CG-ENG Policy Letter No. 01-16 – Portable Accommodation Module Guidance

Dist: Eighth District Sectors, MSUs and MSDs

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