

## **CHARTER VESSEL REGULATIONS AND INSPECTION GUIDELINES**

**In an effort to promote and ensure the safety of charter vessel passengers, the Coast Guard enforces the regulations applicable to the Uninspected Passenger Vessels. These regulations include; the equipment and operational requirements of 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter C, the chemical testing requirements found in 46 CFR 16, the licensing requirements found in 46 CFR 15, and other pollution prevention requirements found in 33 CFR 151 and 159.**

**We must also coordinate our efforts with the charter vessel industry and give the vessel operators sufficient incentive for them to request the voluntary dockside examination. Such incentives should include the potential for reduced underway boardings for vessels complying with the voluntary dockside examination requirements. Coast Guard boarding officers will retain the option to conduct underway boardings for law enforcement purposes. The voluntary dockside examination and other examination types are defined in Appendix 1. Also, included in Appendix 2 are definitions that you may find useful.**

**To facilitate the inspection process, this inspection guide follows the format of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Courtesy Marine Examination form that is already in use. The number with the supporting inspection detail and regulation cite(s) corresponds to the auxiliary form subject number.**

**Should you have any questions or to schedule your voluntary dockside examination, please call one of the Coast Guard offices noted in Appendix 3.**

The vessel must be appropriately numbered and documented, if required. Any vessel of at least five net tons and operating commercially on the Great Lakes must be documented with the Coast Guard. Vessels that are not required to be documented must be registered with the state.

### 1. NUMBERING

Documented vessels; vessel name and hailing port on stern	46 CFR 67.123
Documented vessels; vessel name on port & starboard bow	46 CFR 67.123
Documented vessels; Official number on interior structural of hull	46 CFR 67.121
Not documented; state numbers on port & starboard bow, $\geq 3$ " block letters, permanently marked, contrasting background	33 CFR 173.27 ABYC T-10.3
Not documented; validation sticker displayed (will see on stern)	33 CFR 173.35
<i>Inspection notes: vessel name must be in contrasting letters <math>\geq 4</math>" on stern, <math>\geq 3</math>" on bow</i>	

### 2. REGISTRAION / DOCUMENTATION

Documented vessels; $\geq 5$ net tons, documented for coastwise trade	46 CFR 67.15
Documented vessels; original documentation certificate on board, properly endorsed (e.g. coastwise trade, recreation) and valid	46 CFR 67.7/163
Not documented; original state numbering certificate on board	33 CFR 173.21

**Charter vessel operators are required to be licensed with the Coast Guard and meet the following 2a requirements:**

#### 2a. 6-PAC LICENSE ON BOARD

Operator has USCG license (Operator UPV or Master license)	46 CFR 15.605 & .905
License is in operator's possession (usually in frame hanging on bulkhead)	46 CFR 26.20-1(a)
Operator is licensed for waters navigated	46 CFR 15.401
Sufficient number of operators for two watches (if voyage over 12 hours)	46 USC 8104(b)
<i>Inspection notes: License must be applicable for vessel operation and tonnage. Original license on board. Check SSN and license should be signed.</i>	

### 3. NAVIGATION LIGHTS

Proper navigation lights	33 CFR 84 ABYC A-16.5.2
All around anchor light	33 CFR 84 ABYC A-16.6.5

### 4. SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE

Whistle or horn	33 CFR 86.23 ABYC A-23.5
<i>Inspection notes: Athletic whistle not acceptable for vessels <math>\geq 12</math> meters (39.4 ft).</i>	

### 5. BELL

Required in addition to whistle or horn on vessels $\geq 12$ meters (39.4 ft)	33 CFR 86.23 ABYC A-23.5 c
<i>Inspection notes: Can use equipment having the same sound characteristics in lieu of bell.</i>	

**6-6c. PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE**

Type I CG approved PFD of suitable size for each person	46 CFR 25.25-5(c)(f)
Type I reflective material on each PFD	46 CFR 25.25-15
PFD device light (make sure batteries have current date mark)	46 CFR 25.25-1
Readily accessible	46 CFR 25.25-9
In serviceable condition	46 CFR 25.25-11
USCG approval numbers visible	46 CFR 25.25-7
<i>Inspection notes: Type I – Life preserver/jacket, Type II – Buoyant vest, Type III – Flotation aid/marine buoyant device, Type IV – Throwable device/ring buoys/buoyant cushion, Type V – Special use/hybrid inflatable. An approved Type V can be substituted for a Type I if it is worn when the vessel is underway and the wearer is not in an enclosed space.</i>	

**7. LIFE RING BUOY**

Throwable life ring required for vessels > 26ft	46 CFR 25.25-5(d)
Immediately accessible	46 CFR 25.25-9
Buoyant 3/8" grab line	46 CFR 160.050
CG Approval	46 CFR 160.050
Type I reflective tape	46 CFR 25.25-15
<i>Inspection notes: Can be orange or white. Must be orange if vessel goes into Canada. Lifeline not required.</i>	

**8. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

USCG approved for portable extinguishers	46 CFR 25.30-5(b) ABYC A-4.6.1
USCG approved or CERTIFIED for marine use, UL listed for fixed fire extinguishing systems	ABYC A-4.7.1
Name plate attached	46 CFR 25.30-10(d)
Minimum number of portable extinguishers	46 CFR 25.30-20(a)(1)&(b)(1) TABLES ABYC A-4.6.3
Pressure gauge or indicating device	46 CFR 25.30-10(h)
Proper bracket for extinguisher	46 CFR 162.028-3(g)
<i>Inspection notes: If mfg date before 1/1/65 and not fitted with gauge, must be weighed every 6 months, frangible disk intact and not damaged or leaking (46 CFR 25.30-10(g))</i>	

**9. VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS**

Readily Accessible	33 CFR 175.120
Date Current	33 CFR 175.125
CG Approval	33 CFR 175.128
<i>Inspection notes: 3 day and 3 night or 3 day/night combo. Should be in waterproof case.</i>	

**10. VENTILATION**

Gasoline fuel tanks must be properly ventilated	46 CFR 25.40 ABYC H-2.5
Blower warning label	33 CFR 183.610(f) ABYC H-2.6.3.2.9
Exhaust blower duct in lower 1/3 of compartment, above bilge water	33 CFR 183.610(d) ABYC H-2.6.3.2.7

*Inspection notes: Each fuel tank and engine compartment vented with 2 vents fitted with cowls; 1 exhaust, 1 intake. Fuel lines should be marine approved, not plastic hoses. Check for holes, leaks. Check direction of exhaust discharge.  
See 33 CFR 183.520 and 33 CFR 175.201 for venting fuel tanks.  
Ensure flame screens on vents are properly fitted and not painted over or gummed over.*

**11. BACKFIRE FLAME ARRESTER**

For gasoline engines; properly installed and cleaned.	46 CFR 25.35-1
<i>Inspection notes: CG approval numbers 162.015 or 162.041</i>	

**12. FUEL SYSTEM**

Fuel tank labeled	33 CFR 183.514 ABYC H-24.18.3
Fuel pump not leaking	33 CFR 183.524 ABYC H-24.14.4
Fuel stop valve have manual means to operate	33 CFR 183.528 ABYC H-24.8.4
Fuel lines made of metal or "USCG Type A1" hose	33 CFR 183.528
Fuel tank grounded	33 CFR 183.572 ABYC H-24.15
<i>Inspection notes: Fuel lines should be marine approved, not plastic hoses (ABYC H-24.14.2). Check for holes, leaks. Metal fuel hoses can be made of copper, nickel copper or copper nickel.</i>	

**13. ANCHOR & ANCHOR LINE**

Suitable for vessel with sufficient anchor line for area of operations	ABYC H-40.4
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**14. ALTERNATE PROPULSION**

Vessels under 16ft require alternate propulsion (oar, paddle)	
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**15. DEWATERING DEVICE**

Ensure pump(s) work	
Ensure manual bailer aboard	

**16. OVERALL VESSEL CONDITION**

Check for any visible hull damage	
Check engine hoses for leaks	
<i>Inspection notes: operate sea valves and check engine mount bolts.</i>	

**17 ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS**

Approved marine alternators	
Battery terminals are covered	33 CFR 183.420 & 445 ABYC E-10.7.7
<i>Inspection notes: Check shore power connection for evidence loose or defective connection. Check wiring and insulation for frayed wires, missing insulation, frayed insulation, loose wires, etc. Battery should be trayed/protected.</i>	

**18. GALLEY / HEATING SYSTEMS**

Approved cooking, heating and lighting systems	46 CFR 25.45 ABYC A-3, A-7
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**19. STATE REQUIREMENTS**

Numbering and registration per 1 and 2 above.	
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**20. MARINE SANITATION DEVICE**

Does vessel have certified marine sanitation device? (Will typically see Type III, holding tank)	33 CFR 159.7
<i>Inspection notes: Ensure overboard shut off valve is closed and locked shut.</i>	

**21. MARPOL TRASH PLACARD**

Great Lakes pollution placard posted	33 CFR 151.59(d)
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**22. POLLUTION PLACARD**

Prohibited discharge warning placard (5"X8"); posted in machinery space or at bilge pump control station (if vessel is over 26ft)	33 CFR 155.450
<i>Inspection notes: Is vessel operator practicing proper retention of bilge slops? Are oily mixtures retained on board and then discharged at reception facility?</i>	

**23. NAVIGATION RULES**

Vessels $\geq$ 12 meters (39.4 ft) must have copy of Inland Nav Rules	33 CFR 88.05
Vessels $\geq$ 20 meters (65 ft) required to have bridge to bridge comms, ch 13	33 CFR 26.03

**24. FCC MARINE RADIO LICENSE**

If required, valid radio station license	47 CFR 80.25
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**25-25b DRUG TESTING PROGRAM**

Employer drug testing program	46 CFR 16.205
Aware of regulation against operating a vessel while intoxicated	33 CFR 95

**26. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Emergency check off list posted in conspicuous location(s)	46 CFR 26.03(a)&(b)
Passenger counts taken	46 USC 3502
Aware of proper accident and casualty reporting	33 CFR 173.59 & 46 CFR 4.05
Aware of proper sexual offense reporting	46 USC 10104

**27. EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS**

Safety orientation given (public announcements/instruction placards)	46 CFR 26.031(a)
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**Prior to getting underway, the operator shall ensure that suitable public announcements, instructive placards or both are provided in a manner which affords all passengers the opportunity to become acquainted with:**

- 1. Stowage locations of life preservers.**
- 2. Proper method of donning and adjusting life preservers.**
- 3. The type and location of all lifesaving devices carried aboard.**
- 4. The location and contents of the emergency check off list.**

**28. CG CAPACITY PLATE**

Visible plate for monohull power vessels <20ft	33 CFR 183.23	ABYC S-7.5
<i>Inspection notes: This plate must be yellow in color and be marked with the maximum number of persons capacity in whole numbers of persons and in pounds, the maximum weight capacity in pounds, and the maximum horsepower for that boat or the words "This Boat Not Rated for Propulsion by Motor".</i>		

**29. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE LABEL**

Required for monohull power vessels <20ft	33 CFR 181.7
<i>Inspection notes: This label is affixed by the boat's manufacturer and should contain the following statement: "This Boat Complies with U.S. Coast Guard Safety Standards in Effect on the Date of Certification".</i>	

**30. HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**

(Included in block #1 NUMBERING for documented vessels)	33 CFR 181.23	ABYC T-10
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*Additional inspection notes: EPIRB not required (46 CFR 25.26-10)*

## Appendix 1

### EXAMINATION TYPES

**Voluntary dockside examination:** An examination of the vessel by a qualified Coast Guard inspector. The vessel operator requests this examination at a time and place convenient for the operator. This examination is designed to bring attention to the elements of the program and vessel requirements and is, therefore, not punitive. Discrepancies (if any) are brought to the attention of the operator. Violations of regulations are not cited.

Upon successful completion of an examination, Sector Lake Michigan will issue a decal sticker that will be displayed on the vessel. The decal represents that the vessel meets the applicable requirements for uninspected passenger vessels. Accordingly, Sector Lake Michigan intends for other law enforcement authorities to consider the presence of such an inspection decal if requesting a vessel to stop for a boarding.

**Random enforcement boardings:** These boardings are required whenever a Coast Guard Officer, Warrant Officer or Petty Officer requests a vessel operator to make his vessel available to inspection and may take place at any time in accordance with 46 CFR 26.15-1. Due to the nature of law enforcement regulation authorities, these boardings almost always interrupt passenger vessel operations and; therefore, are the least desirable. The boardings can be conducted either while the vessel is underway or while the vessel is dockside.

**Follow up examination:** These are generally brief visits to ensure that deficiencies that were found during a previous voluntary dockside examination or random enforcement boarding are corrected. These visits can be voluntary or mandatory depending on the nature and circumstances of the deficiencies. In some cases, the need for an actual follow up visit to the vessel is not required as verifying documentation can be submitted in lieu of a follow up visit.

## Appendix 2

### DEFINITIONS

**ABYC** - American Boat & Yacht Council

#### **Carrying passengers for hire**

The carriage of any person or persons by a vessel for a valuable consideration whether directly or indirectly flowing to the owner, charterer, operator, agent or any other person interested in the vessel.

**CFR** - Code of Federal Regulations

#### **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 actual expenses of the voyage, by monetary contribution or donation of fuel, food, beverage or other supplies.

#### **Crew member**

An individual who is:

- a. On board a vessel acting under the authority of a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document (MMD), whether or not the individual is a member of the vessel's crew; or
- b. Engaged or employed on board a vessel owned in the United States that is required by law or regulation to engage, employ, or be operated by an individual holding a license, certificate of registry, or MMD.

#### **International voyage**

The International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) does not apply to vessels solely navigating on the Great Lakes. Accordingly, such vessels shall not be considered as being on an international voyage for the purposes of 46 CFR Subchapter C.

#### **Passenger**

Means an individual carried on a vessel, except the owner or an individual representative of the owner; or, in the case of a vessel under charter, an individual charterer or an individual representative of the charterer; the master; or a member of the crew engaged in the business of the vessel who has not contributed consideration for carriage and who is paid for on board services.

#### **Uninspected Passenger Vessel**

Means a vessel of less than 100 gross tons carrying not more than 6 passengers, including at least one passenger for hire; or that is chartered with crew provided or specified by the owner or the owner's representative and carrying not more than 6 passengers.

#### **Uninspected Vessel**

Means a vessel not subject to inspection under 46 USC 3301 that is not a recreational vessel.



## Appendix 3

COAST GUARD CONTACTS

Coast Guard Office	Address	Telephone	Fax
<b>Sector Lake Michigan</b>	2420 South Lincoln Memorial Drive Milwaukee, WI 53207-1997	(414) 747-7155	(414) 747-7890
<b>Marine Detachment Sturgeon Bay</b>	57 N. 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-0446	(920) 743-9448	(920) 743-9724
<b>Station Calumet Harbor</b>	4001 E. 98 <sup>th</sup> Street Chicago, IL 60617-5197	(773) 768-4093	(773) 768-8926
<b>Station Green Bay (AUX)</b>	P.O. Box 8486 Green Bay, WI 54308-8486	(414) 435-7042	(414) 435-8557
<b>Station Kenosha</b>	5036 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Kenosha, WI 53140-2998	(414) 657-4620	(414) 657-4623
<b>Station Milwaukee</b>	C/O Coast Guard Group 2420 South Lincoln Memorial Drive Milwaukee, WI 53207-1997	(414) 747-7170	(414) 747-7115
<b>Station Sheboygan</b>	235 Pennsylvania Avenue Sheboygan, WI 53081-4694	(920) 452-0346	(920) 457-0340
<b>Station Sturgeon Bay</b>	2501 Canal Road Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-1099	(920) 743-3367	(920) 743-7438
<b>Station Two Rivers</b>	13 East Street Two Rivers, WI 54241-3095	(920) 793-1304	(920) 793-4587
<b>Station Washington Island</b>	Lobdell Point Road Washington Island, WI 54246-0010	(920) 847-2554	(920) 847-2555
<b>Station Wilmette Harbor</b>	10 Harbor Drive Wilmette, IL 60091-1997	(847) 251-0185	(847) 251-0287