

JANUARY 2024

THE TVIB BRIEF



2023 Regulations and Revisions

In this edition of our newsletter we will be revisiting key 2023 USCG policy and work instruction updates: CVC-WI-013, CVC-WI-010, and the Final Towing Vessel Firefighting Training rule. Dive into these crucial changes shaping maritime regulations.

Industry Updates

On 12/28/2023, the Coast Guard issued revisions to the User Fees for Inspected Towing Vessels.

Click [here](#) to access our latest blog post.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Collin Bryant is Tug and Barge Solutions' Vice President of Business Development and East Coast internal surveyor and auditor. He holds a Master of Towing Vessels upon Oceans endorsement, working on ATB's Harbor Assist Tugs including Tractor Tugs and Long Line Wire Tugs. He worked for Coeymans Marine Towing in NY as a tug captain, Port Captain, General Manager and Designated Person Ashore. He managed a fleet of 6 tugs and 30 barges. He brings experience from both the shoreside and vessel points of view.

How long have you been in this industry?

I have been in the maritime industry for 16 years, I am a graduate of SUNY Maritime in 2007 with a BS in Marine Transportation.

Collin Bryant

Tug and Barge Solutions

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How were you exposed to this career path?

I worked with TBS Safety for many years as captain on tugs for a small operation in upstate NY, which made me a great candidate for Auditor/Surveyor.

What is your favorite work-related activity?

It would be meeting all the different crews on the vessels and all the different personalities.

What do you find most challenging about auditing? Surveying?

Delivering bad news about a major N/C finding. I'm not a fan of delivering bad news like that.

What is your favorite nonwork-related activity?

Among boating and being on the water, I also enjoy flying small single engine aircraft.

What is your most predominant daily motivator?

To ensure that I pass onto fellow captains and crew that safety matters and to ensure that everyone comes home to their families at the end of their hitch.

Have Questions?

To access our full list of FAQs, please visit our website [here](#).

Suggestions?

We would love to hear from you! Submit your idea for hot topics or FAQs to info@thetvib.org or dial 832.323.3392

TPO Customer QuickBase Access

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2024 Training Calendar Available!

We are pleased to announce that we have finalized the dates for our upcoming training courses in 2024. Please check the website for more information.

[Click Here](#)

2023 Regulations and Revisions

Revision CVC-WI-013 (7)

On November 6, 2023, CVC published revision (7) to CVC-WI-013 Towing Vessel COI Inspections Under TSMS Option. The revision is substantial, so we are highlighting some of the major changes for you. We strongly encourage all owners, managing operators, compliance personnel, auditors and surveyors for towing vessels to read this work instruction as it is the most comprehensive source of Coast Guard policy guidance for Subchapter M towing vessels. Changes include:

- A new “reduced risk-based inspection and certification” program for TSMS option vessels, which allows an owner or managing operator the opportunity to request a reduced scope of the inspection for COI renewal to just essential systems. The O/MO may request a reduced risk inspection at the time of COI renewal if:
 - An O/MO provides objective evidence that a full TSMS survey was conducted that year;
 - The TPO provides objective evidence that the vessel has no major non-conformities in the last 5 years; and
 - The vessel has not been issued any code 30 deficiencies by the Coast Guard in the last 5 years.
- Providing guidance for O/MO who wish to renew their COIs early, and when the Coast Guard should maintain the same COI month and day on the renewal COI, versus resetting the COI anniversary date.
- Incorporating the information from Coast Guard Policy Letter 17-02 and Coast Guard Policy Letter 18-01 into WI-013, and subsequently cancelling both policy letters.
- Clarifying the definition of “initial COI” as it relates to vessels that change inspection program options.
- Clarifying expectations for a wide variety of situations that may call for inspection program changes, including vessels changing from CG option to TSMS option, or vice versa, vessels moving between TPOs, vessels being bought/sold, etc.

Click [here](#) to view and download the full work instruction.



USCG: Final Rule for Towing Vessel Firefighting Training

On October 23, 2023, the Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing issued a final rule revising the training requirements for national Merchant Mariner Credential endorsements as master of towing vessels (limited) or mate (pilot) of towing vessels on inland waters (other than the Great Lakes) or Western Rivers routes. The modified basic firefighting course is limited to towing vessel endorsements for Western Rivers and inland waters other than the Great Lakes. Mariners seeking towing vessel endorsements for other routes must complete a basic firefighting course. The effective date of this rule is April 1, 2024.

Click [here](#) to download the full bulletin.



Revision CVC-WI-010 (CH 3)

CVC-WI-010(3) OCMI Guidance on Special Consideration for 46 CFR Subchapter M Vessels has been revised to add guidance on the use of alternative visual distress signals (eVDSD) and the use of alternative line throwing appliances. The new guidance on VDS applies to vessels that operate on the following routes: Rivers, Lakes, Bays and Sounds, Great Lakes or Coastwise.

Click [here](#) to access the revised work instruction.

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