



ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR PREVENTION POLICY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20593-7501

SEP 22 2022

Dear Towing Vessel Inspection Bureau:

I want to extend my sincere appreciation and give thanks for your support of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety mission. Your contribution during the Subchapter M phase-in period ensured successful Coast Guard certification of over 4,700 U.S. documented towing vessels under new Federal inspection regulations.

In 2016, the Coast Guard published towing vessel regulations for a new comprehensive safety system that includes aspects of company and vessel compliance, vessel standards, and oversight. In addition to new equipment and operational standards, the regulations created a novel choice of two inspection regimes: the Coast Guard option and the Towing Safety Management (TSMS) option. Third-party organizations played a critical role in implementing the TSMS option for over 3,000 towing vessels and continue to be pivotal in the program's success. Third-party organizations are also immensely important in fostering innovation and easing regulatory impact on stakeholders, while ensuring the highest standards of vessel safety.

I recognize the incredible amount of time and effort that were required to build the framework necessary to implement a new third-party survey and audit regime. Thank you for working on this important endeavor to improve the safety of the Towing Vessel industry. Bravo Zulu and Semper Paratus!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'WR Arguin', is written over the printed name.

W. R. ARGUIN
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

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