

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Captain of the Port  
United States Coast Guard  
Western Alaska

510 L Street, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Staff Symbol: sp  
Phone: (907) 271-6700  
Fax: (907) 271-6751  
Anchorage.Inpsections@uscg.mil

16600  
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## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 006-09

November 30, 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) that will soon be published.

The Coast Guard strongly encourages participation in industry initiated examinations, which are focused 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 a successful towing vessel examination program, industry should make every effort to schedule voluntary examinations with their cognizant/local Coast Guard offices.

Once deemed compliant with applicable regulations, each 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 Coast Guard has an indoctrination program established that calls for Coast Guard personnel to spend time visiting towing vessel companies and learning important elements of vessel and shore side operations. If you are interested in participating you may call the point of contact in the last paragraph of this bulletin.

The point of contact at your local Coast Guard unit is MST1 Thomas Watts and can be reached at 907-271-6725 or Thomas.F.Watts@uscg.mil. Please do not hesitate to contact him with questions regarding this program. Additionally, the Coast Guard has posted information regarding all aspects of this program on the Coast Guard Homeport website. To access this information, type in the following web address:

<http://homeport.uscg.mil> >Domestic Vessels >Towing Vessels

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. A. FOSDICK".

J. A. FOSDICK  
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port, Western Alaska

Copy: Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District (dp)