



Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 15-20

Date: March 31, 2020
Time: 1300

Sector Houston-Galveston Port State Control Hazardous Condition Attestation

This MSIB supersedes Sector Houston-Galveston's MSIB 10-20 "Screening Measures for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)."

The U. S. Coast Guard continues to work alongside various federal, state and local maritime stakeholders and public health officials to respond to the continuing novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic. This virus and disease (COVID-19) presents a serious public health threat to the United States.

Effective immediately, Masters of vessels wishing to enter the Houston-Galveston Captain-of-the-Port (COTP) zone and to whom the regulations contained in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 160, Subpart C—*Notification of Arrival, Hazardous Conditions, and Certain Dangerous Cargoes* apply, shall submit a completed "Attestation of Hazardous Condition" prior to receiving clearance for entry into the Houston-Galveston COTP zone. The specific attestation that must be completed by vessel Masters can be found on the Sector Houston-Galveston Homeport page at this [link](#) under the "Prevention/Foreign Vessel Boarding" tab. Prior to arriving in the COTP Houston-Galveston zone, the vessel's Master shall ensure that the completed attestation is simultaneously submitted to **all** of the following email addresses: HoustonSCC@uscg.mil, HoustonTargeting@uscg.mil, houstonpsc@uscg.mil and inspectionmsutexas@uscg.mil. Until this attestation is received by COTP Houston-Galveston, your vessel will not be placed on our "Cleared to Enter" list.

As a reminder, the provisions outlined in 33 CFR 160.216 still apply to all vessels. Should conditions on board your vessel change at any time after submitting your attestation, including while your vessel is already in port (e.g. someone on board your vessel begins to display symptoms of any reportable illness, including COVID-19), you are reminded of your obligation to immediately contact the Sector Houston-Galveston Command Center to report this hazardous condition.

The U.S. Coast Guard's Inspections and Compliance Directorate has published a series of Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) detailing key maritime issues associated with this pandemic, including but not limited to guidance on compliance with federal drug testing requirements, vessel inspections, exams, and documentation, and reporting requirements for illness or death. Mariners are urged to carefully review all of the Coast Guard's COVID-19-related MSIBs to ensure their compliance with continuing pandemic response measures. These MSIBs may be found at the following link under the "2020" tab at the [USCG DCO website](#).

The U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published a "COVID-19 Guidance for Ships" which all maritime stakeholders are highly encouraged to read. This guidance includes measures a crew may take to help prevent illness transmission. A link to this important information may be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/>.

For continuing updates on the pandemic, please visit the CDC's 2019 Novel Coronavirus Situation Summary at: <https://go.usa.gov/xDdS>.

K. D. ODITT
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Captain of the Port