Marine Safety Information Bulletin

U.S. Coast Guard
Sector Charleston
Waterways Management Division
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MSIB Number: 12-20
Date: March 29, 2020

Reporting Requirements for Cruise Ships in Lay-Up Status & Non-Passenger Commercial Vessels

An outbreak of respiratory illness caused by novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is affecting mariners and maritime commerce. This MSIB serves as a notice that the illness of persons on board a vessel must be reported immediately to both the Coast Guard and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additionally, effective immediately, cruise ships in lay-up status and non-passenger commercial vessels that have been to the countries or embarked crew members from the countries noted in MSIB Number: 02-20 (Change 3) within the last 14 days, and have crew restricted for more than 24 hours within the Charleston Captain of the Port (COTP) zone, must provide a daily status report of personnel on board the vessel. Delayed reporting can create significant challenges to protect persons on board vessels and, more broadly, maintain an effective Marine Transportation System. Vessels or masters that do not provide daily reports or immediately report illness or death among personnel may require the Coast Guard to take adverse action. Illness of a person on board a vessel that may adversely affect the safety of a vessel or port is a hazardous condition per 33 CFR 160.216.

The COTP Charleston requires the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge of a vessel that meets the above criteria to contact Sector Charleston's Port State Control Branch daily with the health status of the personnel on board. Health status shall include if personnel are healthy, ill as defined in 42 CFR 71.1, or if a person has passed away. These reports are to be made to Sector Charleston's Port State Control Branch at (843) 296-5520 or email D07-SMB-SECTORCHASN-PORT-STATE-CONTROL@uscg.mil.

A daily status call is not a substitute for delaying the reporting of identified illnesses or deaths. Vessels shall report illnesses or deaths immediately to the COTP as they occur. These requirements are detailed in Commandant MSIB 06-20.

For questions or concerns regarding this MSIB, please contact Sector Charleston's Port State Control Branch at (843) 296-5520 or the Sector's 24-hour Command Center at (843) 740-7050. This MSIB can be viewed at https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/charleston.