

MARINE SAFETY BULLETIN

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Hydrostatic Testing of Bunker Lines

Sector New Orleans Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) have discovered an increasing number of vessels that are not in compliance with the requirements of 33 Code of Federal Regulations 156.170, which requires each transfer pipe system used in a transfer to, from or within a vessel with a capacity of 250 barrels or more on the navigable waters or contiguous zone of the United States, to be tested under static liquid pressure at least 1.5 times the maximum allowable working pressure annually.

In most cases, the Port State Control Officers found that the vessels had tested the systems, but with air vice liquid, therefore the test was not acceptable. In addition, several vessels could not provide the written records of the date and result of the most recent hydrostatic test and inspection of the vessel's bunker lines/transfer systems as required by 33 Code of Federal Regulations 155.820.

It is the responsibility of the master and/or operator of a vessel to ensure that the vessel is in compliance with 33 Code of Federal Regulations parts 155 (Oil or Hazardous Material Pollution Prevention Regulations) and 156 (Oil and Hazardous Material Transfer Operations) prior to the vessel engaging in the transfer of oil or hazardous material on the navigable waters or contiguous zone of the United States.

Failure to ensure compliance with these regulations could result in a maximum civil penalty of \$6,000 for each infraction. However, it is not my intent to issue monetary fines or prevent operators from conducting bunkering operations, only to gain compliance with the rules and regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact the Port State Control Branch at 504-365-2342 or PSCNOLA.uscg.mil.



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