



Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 11-16

Notice of Intent to Disable Machinery

Preventative maintenance is essential to ensuring the reliability of sophisticated, modern propulsion equipment. Occasionally, however, preventative maintenance degrades or disables shipboard steering and propulsion systems. The Coast Guard encourages mariners to be attentive to preventive maintenance schedules to ensure the seaworthiness of their vessels but also requires timely awareness when maintenance results in restrictions to vessel maneuvering capability; in order to ensure waterways safety, that of other vessels and mariners, and waterfront facilities; particularly in the event of heavy weather, hazardous materials release, fire and similar emergencies that could necessitate unscheduled vessel movement.

The Captain of the Port (COTP) therefore requires that all seagoing, self-propelled vessels greater than 500 gross tons moored or anchored within the COTP Zone provide advance notice, to the COTP, when planning to disable machinery affecting main propulsion, steering or electrical generation and distribution systems.

The use of the automated form at <http://txgulf.org/services/vts-cotp-policy-notice-of-intent-to-to-disable-machinery/> under "Intent to Disable" will effect the required notification which will be separately acknowledged.

This notification process is fundamental to waterways safety and consistent with the requirements of Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) paragraphs 160.216 and 161.12, which require notification to the COTP of hazardous conditions and/or hazardous vessel operating conditions, respectively. This notification is in addition to the requirements set forth in 46 CFR 2.01-15 for vessels certificated by the U. S. Coast Guard to make notifications to the Officer in Charge Marine Inspections (OCMI) prior to commencing repairs.

For more information, questions or comments regarding this bulletin contact Sector Houston-Galveston Vessel Traffic Service at (281) 464-4837 or Sector Houston-Galveston Command Center at (281) 464-4853.

This bulletin shall remain active until rescinded or superseded by future direction.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. F. Martin".

P. F. Martin
Captain, United States Coast Guard
Captain of the Port