



Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 07-25

Oil & Hazardous Cargo Transfer Operations at Sea & Marine Casualty Reporting

This bulletin clarifies advanced notification requirements for ship-to-ship (STS) transfers of oil and hazardous materials, as well as summarizes offshore marine casualty reporting requirements.

Advanced notifications of STS transfers planned for the Houston-Galveston Captain of the Port (COTP) zone should be submitted as early possible to Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Texas City to avoid operational delays. These notifications may be submitted by email to msutxclightering@uscg.mil using the applicable request sheet (see enclosures). Alternatively, advanced notifications to MSU Texas City can be completed through the QR codes provided below.



Request for
STS (Oil)

As per 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) [156.415](#), the master, owner, or agent of each oil tanker planning to conduct STS operations in the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the United States must provide at least 48 hours advance notice to the COTP nearest the geographic position chosen to conduct these operations.



Request for
STS (Hazardous Materials)

In accordance with [CG-ENG-5 Policy Letter 02-24](#), approval of STS operations involving hazardous materials, other than oil, may be conducted by the COTP without additional correspondence from COMDT (CG-ENG) so long as all required documents are verified to be current and valid, and at least 48 hours advance notice is provided.

Offshore Marine Casualty Reporting for Foreign Tank Vessels

Incidents or casualties posing significant harm to the environment or material damage affecting the seaworthiness or efficiency of a foreign tank vessel operating beyond 12 nautical miles within the EEZ of the United States shall be reported in accordance with regulations. Efforts should be made to submit one report by or on behalf of the Person-in-Overall Advisory Control (POAC). Please see 33 CFR [151.15](#), [156.220](#), and [156.420](#) for reporting requirements.

Please contact MSU Texas City at msutxclightering@uscg.mil or inspectionsmsutexascity@uscg.mil with any questions or comments regarding this MSIB. For urgent or after hours matters, please contact the Sector Houston-Galveston Command Center at 1-866-539-8114.

N. D. Rodriguez
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port
Houston-Galveston, Texas

Enclosure 1 – Request for STS Transfer Approval

_____ Initial Report _____ Updated Report

Sector Houston-Galveston / MSU Texas City Advanced Notice for Ship-to-Ship Cargo Transfer Reporting Sheet

Submit all required information for each oil tanker conducting STS Operations to msutxclighting@uscg.mil

		Transferring Ship	Receiving Ship 1	Receiving Ship 2	Receiving Ship 3	Receiving Ship 4
	33 CFR 156.415					
(a)(1)	Name					
	Call Sign					
	Official Number					
	Registry					
(a)(2)	Cargo Type Approximate amount onboard					
	Cargo Type Approximate amount onboard					
	Cargo Type Approximate amount onboard					
(a)(3)	Number of Transfers expected					
	Amount of cargo for each transfer					
	Transfer at anchor or underway					
(a)(4)	ETA					
	Location of planned STS operations (Include Coordinates)					
(a)(5)	Duration of STS operations					
(a)(6)	Name of receiving tankers					
	Destination of receiving tankers					
(a)(7)	STS Provider or					
	POAC Name					
	Contact Info					

Enclosure 2 – Request for lightering operations involving hazardous materials, other than oil.**Name of Requesting Company/Person:**

Items required by 33CFR156.210(b) and 156.215(a)	Vessel to be lightered (see definition in 33 CFR 156.205)	Service vessel (see definition in 33 CFR 156.205)
Vessel name		
Call sign or official number		
Vessel registry		
Estimated time of arrival in the lightering location		
Shipping name of cargo		
Amount onboard that will be lightered		
Lightering location or zone		
Number of transfers expected and amount of cargo expected to be transferred during each transfer		
Estimated duration of transfer operations		
Name & destination of any service vessels		
Estimated frequency of subsequent lightering (if any)		
Additional Required Information/Items		
Verification from Masters that vessels have on board and are using the Ship to Ship Transfer Guide for Petroleum, Chemicals and Liquefied Gases ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of COC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of Certificate of Fitness (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of Certificate of Financial Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of ISM Certificate (Safety Management Certificate)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of IOPP indicating carriage of cargo to be transferred (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of International Pollution Prevention Certificate for the Carriage of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of class or flag certified page of their shipboard STS procedures (just title page or page indicating review stamp)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certificate of hoses for liquefied gas transfers (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of MSDS or Safety Data Sheet for chemicals to be transferred	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of POAC (Person in Overall Advisory Command) if applicable		

⁵ CDI/ICS/OCIMF/SIGTTO, Ship to Ship Transfer Guide for Petroleum, Chemicals and Liquefied Gases, Witherby Seamanship, 2013.