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## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 01-12

April 30, 2012

### Application Requirements for Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) for Tank Vessels Operating in the Captain of the Port, Western Alaska Zone

- Ref: (a) COMDT (CG-543) letter 16711 of 12 Aug 09/CG-543 Policy Letter 09-02  
(b) Western Alaska COTP Marine Safety Information Bulletin 03-10

The *Western Alaska Tank Vessel Alternative Planning Criteria (WA-APC-T)* submitted by the Marine Exchange of Alaska that will be implemented by the Alaska Maritime Prevention & Response Network (MPRN) has been approved by Coast Guard Headquarters (CG-543). Currently, the WA-APC-T is the only approved tank vessel APC for the Captain of the Port Zone, Western Alaska and is applicable for tank vessels operating in the navigable waters of the United States outside of Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound.

The existence of a Coast Guard approved Alternative Planning Criteria for operations within the Western Alaska Captain of the Port zone provides tank vessel owners and operators additional options for compliance with federal Vessel Response Plan regulations. Operators electing to operate in the Western Alaska COTP zone while not utilizing an approved APC continue to have the option to submit an APC for Coast Guard review. However, any APC submission must comply with all federal submission requirements. 33 C.F.R. § 155.1065(f) provides that APC requests must be submitted 90 days before the vessel intends to operate; however, submission 90 days in advance does **NOT** guarantee approval within the same timeframe. Requests not submitted sufficiently in advance of the projected implementation date will not be considered. Since all APC submissions are required to go through a very comprehensive and lengthy review process and multiple levels of stakeholder review, it is recommended that owners and operators allow at least 180 days for review of an APC. Further guidance on APC requirements are found in reference (a). WA-APC-T coverage will commence on May 14, 2012.

Vessel owners and operators can verify coverage under the approved WA-APC-T and receive a Western Alaska Geographic Specific Appendix by providing a certificate of participation from the MPRN and establishing a relationship via a contract or other approved means with Alaska Chadux to Coast Guard Headquarters (CG-543). The MPRN has established procedures to obtain the certificate of participation at the following website ([www.ak-mprn.org](http://www.ak-mprn.org)). Responses to frequently asked questions are posted on Sector Anchorage's Coast Guard Homeport website, under Port State Control (<http://homeport.uscg.mil/anchorage>).

Due to approval of the WA-APC-T, the need for Interim Operating Authorizations (IOA) and One Time Waivers (OTW) are significantly reduced. Therefore, IOA's and OTW's will only be issued under special circumstances and on an extremely limited basis, and APC submissions for specific vessel arrival will not be considered absent exigent circumstances.

Reference (b) is canceled. Please contact LTJG Ryan Butler at (907) 271-6956 with any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. A. FOSDICK".

J. A. FOSDICK  
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port, Western Alaska