

# MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB)

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
Sector Charleston

196 Tradd Street  
Charleston, SC 29401-1800  
Phone: (843) 740-3180  
Fax: (843) 740-3189

## **MSIB (09-11) – Enforcement of Salvage and Marine Firefighting (SMFF) and Dispersant and Aerial Observation (CAPS) Regulatory Updates to Tank vessel Response Plans**

*Issued: February 18, 2011*

*Expires: TBD*

On February 22, 2011 the Coast Guard will commence enforcement of Salvage and Marine Firefighting (SMFF) & CAPS requirements on tank vessels.

The SMFF Final Rule (73 FR 80618) dated December 31, 2008 and the CAPS Final Rule (74 FR 45004) dated August 31, 2009, amended the existing requirements of 33 CFR 155. Vessels subject to the changes in 33 CFR 155 must identify in their VRP, and ensure the availability, through contract or other approved means, SMFF resources, dispersant application resources, and aerial oil tracking capability.

Vessels subject to the changes within 33 CFR 155 are required to submit their updated Vessel Response Plan (VRP) to Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Vessel Activities (CG-543), in accordance with 33 CFR 155.1070 by February 22, 2011. Vessel operators are required to follow the amended VRP until Coast Guard Headquarters provides additional instruction or final approval.

Failure to comply with the applicable SMFF and CAPS requirements may restrict certain tank vessel operations. A vessel may also be denied entry into port, or held in port, until the corresponding VRP is amended in accordance with the Final Rules.

Vessels certificated solely for lakes, bays, and sounds routes may be exempt from CAPS requirements for dispersants and aerial observation, and should contact the VRP help desk using the contact information below.

Additional information related to the SMFF and CAPS requirements may be found at the Regulatory Updates Tab within Homeport at <http://homeport.uscg.mil/vrp>.

If you have any questions regarding amendments to VRPs, please contact the VRP help desk at (202) 372-1000 or by email at [vrp@uscg.mil](mailto:vrp@uscg.mil).

/S/

C. C. Weiser  
Lieutenant, U.S. Coast Guard  
Chief, Inspections Division  
By direction

Please visit us on the web at: <http://homeport.uscg.mil/charleston>