

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2016–1010]

Certificate of Alternative Compliance for the M/V TURTLE

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces that the District Five Prevention Division (Dp) has issued a Certificate of Alternate Compliance (COAC) from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS) for the M/V TURTLE as required by statute. Due to the construction and placement of the pilothouse aft and starboard of amidships it cannot fully comply with the masthead light provisions of the 72 COLREGS without interfering with the vessel's operations as an open deck vehicle ferry as there are no structures forward of amidships to affix a masthead light. This notice promotes the Coast Guard's maritime safety and stewardship missions.

ADDRESSES: Documents mentioned in the preamble are part of docket USCG–2016–1010. To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, type the docket number in the "SEARCH" box and click "SEARCH." Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associate with this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information or questions about this notice call or email: CDR Scott W. Muller, District Five, Chief, Inspections and Investigations, U.S. Coast Guard, telephone 757–398–6389, email: Scott.W.Muller@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States is signatory to the International Maritime Organization's International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), as amended. The special construction or purpose of some vessels makes them unable to comply with the light, shape, and sound signal provisions of the 72 COLREGS. Under statutory law¹ and Coast Guard regulation,² a vessel may instead meet alternative requirements and the vessel's owner, builder,

operator, or agent may apply for a COAC. For vessels of special construction, the cognizant Coast Guard District Office determines whether the vessel for which the COAC is sought complies as closely as possible with the 72 COLREGS, and decides whether to issue the COAC. Once issued, a COAC remains valid until information supplied in the COAC application or the COAC terms become inapplicable to the vessel. Under the governing statute³ and regulation,⁴ the Coast Guard must publish notice of this action.

The Prevention Division, Fifth Coast Guard District hereby finds and certifies that M/V TURTLE is a vessel of special construction or purpose, and that, with respect to the position of the masthead light, it is not possible to comply fully with the requirements of the provisions enumerated in the 72 COLREGS, without interfering with the operations of the vessel as an open deck vehicle ferry. The Prevention Division, Fifth Coast Guard District, further finds and certifies that the proposed placement of the masthead light is in the closest possible compliance with the applicable provisions of the 72 COLREGS and that full compliance with the 72 COLREGS would not significantly enhance the safety of the vessel's operation.

This notice is issued under authority of 33 U.S.C. 1605(c) and 33 CFR 81.

Dated: January 24, 2017.

Capt. Jerry R. Barnes,
Chief, Prevention Division, U.S. Coast Guard.

[FR Doc. 2017–02248 Filed 2–2–17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2009–0973]

Random Drug Testing Rate for Covered Crewmembers for 2017

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of minimum random drug testing rate.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has set the calendar year 2017 minimum random drug testing rate at 25 percent of covered crewmembers.

DATES: The minimum random drug testing rate is effective January 1, 2017

through December 31, 2017. Marine employers must submit their 2016 Management Information System (MIS) reports no later than March 15, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Annual MIS reports may be submitted by electronic submission to the following Internet address: <http://homeport.uscg.mil/Drugtestreports>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this notice, please contact Mr. Patrick Mannion, Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Investigation Program Manager, Office of Investigations and Casualty Analysis (CG–INV), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, telephone 202–372–1033.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coast Guard requires marine employers to establish random drug testing programs for covered crewmembers on inspected and uninspected vessels in accordance with 46 CFR 16.230. Every marine employer is required by 46 CFR 16.500 to collect and maintain a record of drug testing program data for each calendar year, and submit this data by 15 March of the following year to the Coast Guard in an annual MIS report.

Each year, the Coast Guard will publish a notice reporting the results of random drug testing for the previous calendar year's MIS data and the minimum annual percentage rate for random drug testing for the next calendar year. The purpose of setting a minimum random drug testing rate is to assist the Coast Guard in analyzing its current approach for deterring and detecting illegal drug abuse in the maritime industry.

The Coast Guard announces that the minimum random drug testing rate for calendar year 2017 is 25 percent. The Coast Guard may increase this rate if MIS data indicates a qualitative deficiency of reported data or the positive random testing rate is greater than 1.0 percent in accordance with 46 CFR part 16.230(f)(2). MIS data for 2016 indicates that the positive rate is less than one percent.

For 2017, the minimum random drug testing rate will continue at 25 percent of covered employees for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 in accordance with 46 CFR 16.230(e).

Dated: January 12, 2017.

Verne B. Gifford, Jr.,
Captain, USCG, Director of Inspections and Compliance.

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¹ 33 U.S.C. 1605(c).

² 33 CFR 81.3.

³ 33 U.S.C. 1605(c).

⁴ 33 CFR 81.18.