

# NATIONAL TOWING SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NTSAC)

## TASK STATEMENT # 24-04

### I. TASK TITLE

Recommendations for Surveillance Requirements Aboard Vessels Engaged in Commercial Service that Do Not Carry Passengers.

### II. References

(a) Title 46, United States Code (U.S.C.) § 4901 – Surveillance requirements.

(b) CVC Policy Letter 23-05, signed 13 NOV 2023.

### III. BACKGROUND:

The Safer Seas Act on February 22, 2022, made significant changes to how the U.S. maritime industry prevents and responds to acts of sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH). Provisions from the Safer Seas Act eventually became part of the [James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act FY2023](#) (NDAA 2023). The NDAA 2023 was passed by both the House and Senate and subsequently signed by President Joe Biden on December 27, 2023.

The NDAA 2023 requires changes by vessel owners to combat acts of SASH. Specifically, 46 U.S.C Sec. 4901 requires certain vessel owners to install video and audio surveillance equipment in passageways to which stateroom doors open. Vessel owners must also conduct training of persons employed for the purpose of responding to incidents of SASH. In response to these new requirements, CG-CVC, in coordination with CG-OES, published CVC Policy Letter 23-05.

### IV. TASK:

The National Towing Safety Advisory Committee is tasked as follows:

1. Evaluate CVC Policy Letter 23-05.
2. Provide the Coast Guard with concerns regarding the policy letter.
3. Prioritize the list of concerns and provide recommendations, including justifications, for the top three concerns.
4. NTSAC may consider strategies used by towing companies for coming into compliance with the updated 46 U.S.C. Sec. 4901.
5. The committee may also offer other recommendations as appropriate related to this task.

V. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK:

NTSAC will provide a Draft Report to the Coast Guard at its Spring 2025 meeting and a final report Fall 2025.

VI. COAST GUARD TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE:

POC: USCG TVNCOE, USCG CVC-4, USCG OES-2

VII. NTSAC CONTACT:

TBD

VIII. ENCLOSURES:

CVC Policy Letter 23-05

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