

NATIONAL TOWING SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NTSAC)

TASK STATEMENT # 24-02

I. TASK TITLE

Recommendations for Master Key Control Requirements Aboard Merchant Vessels.

II. References

(a) Title 46, United States Code (U.S.C.) § 3106 – Master key control system.

(b) CVC Policy Letter 23-06, 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 (Reference (a)).

The NDAA 2023 requires changes by vessel owners to combat acts of SASH. Specifically, section 11608 of the NDAA 2023 requires logging the date, time, location, and identity of authorized persons when accessing a controlled space. In response to these new requirements, CG-CVC, in coordination with CG-OES, published Reference (b).

IV. TASK:

The National Towing Safety Advisory Committee is tasked with reviewing Reference (b) and identifying the top three concerns with the policy letter. Once the items are identified, provide no more than three recommendations for the U. S. Coast Guard to consider to rectify the identified concern. If more than one recommendation is provided, provide a recommendation on which action is preferred along with justification. Because of the self-executing nature of these new requirements, in its final report, NTSAC should consider the inclusion of best practices for coming into compliance with the updated 46 U.S.C. 3106.

V. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK:

NTSAC will provide a Draft Report to the Coast Guard at its Fall 2024 meeting and a final report Spring 2025

VI. COAST GUARD TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE:

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

VII. NTSAC CONTACT:

TBD

VIII. ENCLOSURES:

CVC Policy Letter 23-06