Passenger Weight and Inspected Vessel Stability Requirements: Final Rule

This Final Rule amends regulations governing the maximum weight and number of passengers that may safely be permitted on board a vessel and other stability regulations. Because the average American weighs significantly more than the assumed average weight per person utilized in current regulations, this update will more accurately reflect today's average weight per person will maintain intended safety levels by accounting for this weight increase. The Final Rule also clarifies and updates intact stability, subdivision, and damage stability regulations.

The Final Rule becomes effective **March 14, 2011** however the new Assumed Average Weight Per Person (AAWPP) of **185 lbs** will not become effective until **December 1, 2011.** Implementation guidance for the AAWPP is contained in Office of Vessel Activities (CG-543) Policy Letter 11-03.

Additional information including supporting documentation from the docket, is available on the **USCG Office of Design and Engineering Standards, Naval Architecture Division** website at:
http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg5212/aawpp.asp

The Coast Guard has also issued a Marine Inspection Notice detailing procedural changes to the Simplified Stability Test: MI Notice 01-11.

A list of Frequently Asked Questions that will be updated as needed and below is a downloadable copy of the Final Rule and supporting policy documents.

- Passenger Weight and Inspected Vessel Stability Requirements (Final Rule): As published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2010.
- Small Entity Compliance Guide: Outlines procedures for passenger vessel owners and operators to demonstrate compliance to the OCMI.
- Marine Safety Information Bulletin

For questions about vessel compliance with these regulations, please contact:

Lieutenant Commander John Taylor
U.S. Coast Guard Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance
(202) 372-1216
CG5431@uscg.mil