



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Directorate of Marine Safety, Security & Stewardship
2100 Second Street, SW, Stop 7355
Washington, DC 20593

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Contact: Paul Wasserman
Phone: (202) 372-1535
E-Mail: Paul.M.Wasserman@uscg.mil

Great Lakes Pilotage Rates – Association Audits Delayed

The Coast Guard announces that the audits of the Great Lakes Pilots Association conducted in connection with the 2011 Great Lakes pilotage rates will be delayed approximately one year. At least once every five years the Coast Guard is statutorily required to audit pilot association expenses and adjust the rates based upon the audited data. Between years, the program is also statutorily required to annually review and adjust the rates that pilots may charge foreign trade vessels for their services. The last pilotage ratemaking using audited data was published in 2006. Consequently, the next audited ratemaking rule was scheduled to be completed in time for the 2011 shipping season.

The Coast Guard will not meet this deadline but will instead publish annually adjusted rates by March 1, 2011, in time for the start of the 2011 shipping season.

The Coast Guard contracted with an auditing agency in August 2008 to audit the three pilot associations' expense records. The audits were completed in March of 2009 and were found by the Coast Guard to be incomplete and inadequate for ratemaking purposes. Accordingly, the Coast Guard has contracted with a private commercial accounting firm to conduct new audits. The work will begin in July 2010 and is scheduled to be completed in late fall. Upon receipt and approval, the Coast Guard will commence the audited ratemaking process.

For more information, please contact Mr. Paul M. Wasserman, Chief, Great Lakes Pilotage Division, Commandant (CG-5522), U.S. Coast Guard, at (202) 372-1535.

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