



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Electrical Equipment in Hazardous Locations Proposed Rule Published

The Coast Guard announced today in the *Federal Register* the publication of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to amend the Electrical Equipment Certification Standards for U.S. and foreign Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU), Floating Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Facilities, and Vessels Engaged in OCS Activities regulations.

The Coast Guard proposes to amend 46 CFR subchapter J by adding subpart 111.108. This proposed subpart would apply to foreign MODUs, floating facilities, and vessels that engage in OCS activities for the first time after the effective date of the regulations. The proposed subpart also would apply to newly constructed U.S. MODUs, floating facilities, and vessels, excluding offshore supply vessels (OSV). The proposed regulations would expand the list of national and international explosion protection standards deemed acceptable, as well as add the internationally accepted independent third-party certification system -- the IEC System for Certification to Standards relating to Equipment for use in Explosive Atmospheres -- as an accepted method of testing and certifying electrical equipment intended for use in hazardous locations. The proposed regulations also would provide owners and operators of existing U.S. MODUs, floating OCS facilities, and vessels other than OSVs that engage in OCS activities, and U.S. tank vessels that carry flammable or combustible cargoes, the option of choosing between the compliance regimes contained in existing 46 CFR subpart 111.105 or the one contained in proposed subpart 111.108. This proposal would support the U.S. Coast Guard's maritime safety mission.

The NPRM and related materials may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> docket number: USCG-2012-0850. The comment period closes Sept. 23, 2013.

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