



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Inspections and Compliance Directorate
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Washington, DC 20593-7501

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Renewal of Commercial Vessel Certificate of Documentation during the Lapse in Appropriations

Due to the Federal Government's lapse in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2014, the Coast Guard is unable to process commercial vessel Certificates of Documentation (COD) to ensure that all commercial vessels receive their renewed CODs before their current documentation expires. The vessels most likely impacted by this situation are those commercial vessels with CODs which expire between October 1, 2013 and November 30, 2013.

For commercial vessels engaged in domestic voyages between ports in the United States or its possessions, the Coast Guard will continue to allow these vessels to operate with an expired COD provided they are otherwise in compliance with all other requirements for their operations. However, vessel owners should submit a renewal application to the National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) as appropriate using normal submittal procedures. These applications will be processed as soon as possible when the lapse in appropriations ends. Recreational vessel user fee funding has not been affected; therefore, recreational vessel applications will continue to be processed.

Commercial vessels that are destined for, or operating from, places outside the United States are strongly advised to verify that the vessel's COD will remain valid for the full duration of the voyage. Commercial vessels that arrive in foreign ports with an expired or an invalid COD may be subject to denial of entry or detention by local port state authorities. As noted above, commercial vessel owners or operators should make application for renewal or reissuance of the COD in accordance with normal submittal procedures. Additionally, if a vessel is currently, or will be on an international voyage between now and December 1, 2013, please contact the Coast Guard at the below number. .

Additional questions regarding this matter should be forwarded to the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Domestic Vessel Division (CG-CVC-1) at **202-372-1224** during regular business hours or by email at CG-CVC-1@uscg.mil. Mariner and industry stakeholders are encouraged to monitor the NVDC website for updates. <http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc>.