



NVDCINST 16713
Revised 03/2025

PREFERRED SHIP MORTGAGES AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS INFORMATION

The United States Code pertaining to the filing and recording of mortgages and related instruments is Title 46 USC 313; the applicable regulations are found in Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations, Subparts O, P, and Q, Sections 67.200-245. The U.S. Coast Guard acts principally as a recording agency in regard to mortgages and related instruments; therefore, it is suggested you review the cited references and/or seek private legal counsel for additional information.

There is NO government form for a preferred mortgage; however, there is an Optional Application for Filing form, [CG-5542](#). The Form CG-5542 MUST be attached to a mortgage or related instrument. If the CG-5542 is properly completed, the instrument to which it is attached will be filed and recorded WITH NO FURTHER REVIEW. The mortgage or related instrument must include the following:

- Signature by or on behalf of the vessel owner(s) and acknowledged by a notary public
- Addresses of both the mortgagor and mortgagee
- Must cover the “whole” of the vessel; cite a definite amount, identify the vessel by name, official number and/or hull number
- Must be accompanied by a filing and recording fee of \$4.00 per page. A page printed on both sides is considered TWO pages. The per-page fee does not apply to the CG-5542 but does apply to any attachment thereto.

A mortgage cannot be accepted for filing unless the vessel has a valid Certificate of Documentation or an Application for Initial Issue, Exchange or Replacement, CG-1258, on file at the NVDC.

A recorded copy of the instrument will be returned.

Instructions:

- 1) Submit your request electronically via the eStorefront link from our homepage. Click the NVDC ESTOREFRONT link under the ‘ORDER PRODUCTS ONLINE’ tab on our website.