



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. COAST GUARD

Marine Safety Unit

Port Arthur, Texas

Marine Safety Information Bulletin **16-22** **May 12, 2022**

Guidance for Dead Ship Tow or Movement for MSU Port Arthur and MSU Lake Charles

The purpose of this Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) is to establish notification options and recommend procedures that will expedite safe and orderly dead ship movements within Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Port Arthur Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone including the Sabine-Neches Waterway and the Calcasieu Waterway.

33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 160.202 defines a *hazardous condition* as “any condition that may adversely affect the safety of any vessel, bridge, structure, or shore area or the environmental quality of any port, harbor, or navigable waterway of the United States. It may, but need not, involve collision, allision, fire, explosion, grounding, leaking, damage, injure, or illness of a person aboard, or manning-shortage.”

Additionally, 33 CFR 160.216(a) requires that “Whenever there is a hazardous condition either on board a vessel or caused by a vessel or its operation, the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge must immediately notify the nearest Coast Guard Sector Office or Group Office, and in addition submit any report required by 46 CFR 4.05-10.”

Because of the confined nature of these waterways and the type of traffic normally transiting them, dead ship movements introduce inherent safety risks and may require advanced planning, additional resources, and special attention to minimize these risks. It is in the interests of all involved parties to evaluate these risks in advance rather than have to delay a planned movement late in the process.

This MSIB makes recommendations to industry that may help avoid costly delays, facilitate communications, and improve safety within the Port Arthur COTP Zone.

1. Owners, agents, and other parties who intend to conduct planned dead ship movements should submit a Dead Ship Tow Notification to MSU Port Arthur (Sabine-Neches Waterway) or MSU Lake Charles (Calcasieu Waterway) as soon as possible, but not less than four business days prior to intended departure.
2. The development of a thorough tow plan for a dead ship movement is strongly encouraged to accompany the Dead Ship Tow Application. The tow plan will assist the Coast Guard in evaluating all conditions pertinent to the dead ship movement.

3. Vessels greater than 79 feet in length or 150 gross tons transiting on a coastwise domestic or international voyage without a valid load line certificate, will require a single voyage Coastwise Load Line Authorization or an International Load Line Exemption Certificate from the Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections (OCMI). To obtain a load line exemption certificate, contact the Inspections Division at the appropriate Marine Safety Unit to schedule a vessel examination. Such requests for inspection should be made a minimum of ten business days in advance of the scheduled towing operation to accommodate scheduling limitations.

MSU Port Arthur (Sabine-Neches Waterway)

msupainspections@uscg.mil
(409) 723-6500 / (409) 284-5767

MSU Lake Charles (Calcasieu Waterway)

msulcinspections@uscg.mil
(337) 491-7809

4. Dead Ship Notification Forms are available on the VTS Port Arthur website and the Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website (select Port Arthur and Lake Charles from the Port Directory menu). Links to both websites are below. Instructions for submitting to the Coast Guard are on the form.

This notice will be posted on the Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS website at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtspportarthur/>. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call MSU Port Arthur at (409) 719-5070 or MSU Lake Charles at (337) 491-7800.



M. A. WIKE
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port

Enclosure: (1) Dead Ship Tow Notification – MSU Port Arthur and MSU Lake Charles



U. S. Coast Guard

Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles

Dead Ship Tow Notification

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Date Submitted:			
POINT OF CONTACT INFORMATION			
Name:		Title:	
Company:			
Email:			
Phone Numbers:	Office:	Mobile:	
Responsible Party Representative Name:			
Responsible Party Representative Contact Phone:			
* Responsible Party Representative should be located on the vessel or tow during pilotage.			
TOWED VESSEL INFORMATION			
Vessel Name:		Official No.	
Vessel Class / Type:		Flag:	
Documentation Status:		Call Sign:	
Ownership:			
Length:		Beam:	
Draft:	Fore:	Aft:	
	Trim:	Air Draft:	
Displacement:		Gross Tons:	
Load Line Certificate or Exemption? <i>(If applicable)</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Certificate of Financial Responsibility? <i>(If applicable)</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Vessel Response Plan Available? <i>(If applicable)</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
TOW and TRANSIT INFORMATION			
Transit From:			
Transit To:			
Est. Departure Date:		Est. Arrival Date:	
Est. Departure Time:			
Pilot Required?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal
Intended Route:			
Lead Tug Name:		HP:	
Assist Tug 1 Name:		HP:	
Assist Tug 2 Name:		HP:	
Assist Tug 3 Name:		HP:	
Is an emergency towline available?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	



U. S. Coast Guard

Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles

Dead Ship Tow Notification

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TOWED VESSEL CONITION	
Ground Tackle Status:	Operational? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Is a Coast Guard inspection required prior to departing / entering port?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Has an inspection been conducted by an underwriter or reputable surveyor for towing preparations?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Tow Plan and/or Route Plan submitted?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Intentions for steering gear, main shaft locking arrangements and watertight integrity:	
<p>I _____ (accountable person for dead ship) have made notifications to COTP zone(s) in which I will be transiting and all involved parties. Also, I agree that I will notify the Coast Guard prior to deviating from this plan.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature:</p>	

THIS NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE COAST GUARD AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE PLANNED EVOLUTION, BUT 4-DAYS IS PREFERRABLE. FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OR LATE NOTICE COULD DELAY THE TRANSIT.

Submit completed form to:		
Sabine-Neches Waterway:	MSU Port Arthur	vtspa-sup@uscg.mil
Calcasieu Waterway:	MSU Lake Charles	D08-SMB-MSULakeCharles-WWM@uscg.mil

U.S. Coast Guard Response		
ACCEPTABLE PLAN:	PREV: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	VTS/WWM: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	Name/Date:	Name/Date:
<p>ANY DEVIATION FROM THE TIMES OR LOCATIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS APPLICATION MUST BE REPORTED TO THE COAST GUARD.</p>		
MSU Port Arthur (VTS)	PHONE: (409) 719-5070	EMAIL: vtspa-sup@uscg.mil
MSU Lake Charles	PHONE: (337) 491-7800	CDO: (337) 912-0073