



U.S. COAST GUARD EIGHTH DISTRICT
GULF OF MEXICO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF
MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN



**Reporting Requirements and Mooring Arrangements for MODUs and Vessels
Completing OCS Activities Intending to Cold Stack**

MSIB 21-03

13 Aug 2021

It is critical for the Coast Guard to have current and accurate vessel location information during heavy weather events. Inaccurate and incomplete information has delayed Coast Guard response efforts in the past, and could do so in the future. In anticipation of an active 2021 tropical cyclone season, the Eighth Coast Guard District is reminding owners and operators of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU) and other vessels completing Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activities (e.g. accommodation vessels, support vessels, pipelay vessels, and others described in 33 CFR 146.401) of the requirement to notify the Coast Guard when these units are relocated.

- Per 33 CFR 146.202(b), the owner or operator of a MODU must notify the District Commander before relocating the unit. This includes units that are in, or being transitioned to, a “cold stacked” or non-operational status. For any MODU currently on the OCS that has been relocated from its original position without the required notification, owners must provide the current location and 24-hour contact information as soon as possible. These notifications should be made to the Eighth District OCS Division at OCSCorrespondence@uscg.mil. Please note that this is in addition to the requirement to make certain notifications to the National Vessel Movement Center in accordance with 33 CFR 146.215(a) or Subpart C of Part 160.
- For other vessels engaged in OCS activities, owners or operators must submit updated Notices of Arrival to the National Vessel Movement Center in accordance with 33 CFR 146.405 or Subpart C of Part 160, and it is requested that they also notify and provide 24-hour contact information to the Eighth District OCS Division at OCSCorrespondence@uscg.mil when the vessel is being placed in a “cold stacked” or non-operational status.

When preparing to “cold stack” a vessel or MODU offshore, the Coast Guard strongly encourages operators to follow Classification Society guidance (such as the American Bureau of Shipping June 2017 Guide for Lay-up and Reactivation of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units or other Classification Society guidance) or other applicable standards regarding mooring arrangements. It is highly recommended that owners and operators ensure these arrangements are reviewed by a naval architect or professional engineer, and, at a minimum, the following are considered:

- Potential heavy weather impacts, to include storm surge
- Proximity to shipping channels, OCS facilities, and pipelines
- Oil or hazardous materials remaining on board
- Lighting and sound signals (see also 33 CFR 143.15 and 33 CFR Part 67)
- Emergency response and recovery procedures

For questions or clarification on this MSIB, please contact CDR Mickey Dougherty, Deputy OCS Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, at (504) 671-2106 or Michael.J.Dougherty@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,

M. J. Denning
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Eighth District Outer Continental Shelf
Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection