



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

16-21

September 9, 2021

Port Arthur Captain of the Port Zone Requirements for U.S. Vessels Sailing Under Coastwise or Dual- Endorsement

This MSIB is issued to provide awareness for U. S. flagged vessels sailing under coastwise, dual or multi-documented endorsements whose arrivals include ports in the Port Arthur Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone including the ports of Beaumont, Orange, Port Arthur and/or Sabine, TX and Lake Charles, West Calcasieu, and/or Cameron Parish, LA.

Coastwise seagoing vessels are subject to Federal pilotage requirements if the vessel is; self-propelled, greater than 1,600 Gross Register Tons (GRT), subject to inspection, not sailing on register, and authorized by their Certificate of Inspection to proceed beyond the Boundary Line. A U.S. documented vessel meeting these requirements, with only a coastwise endorsement on its COD, is subject to first-class Federal pilotage requirements in accordance with **46 CFR 15.812**. Where a dual or multi-documented vessel is sailing under its registry endorsement, it is subject to state pilotage laws. If a dual or multi-documented U.S. vessel is not sailing under its registry endorsement it is considered to be operating on its coastwise endorsement for pilotage purposes.

All vessels subject to the Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act are reminded that they must maintain a listening watch, and respond when hailed, on Channel 16 (156.800MHz) and Channel 13 (156.650 MHz), and the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) frequency when operating in a VTS Area in accordance with **33 CFR 26.04(d)**.

Vessels are reminded that the Sabine-Neches and Calcasieu Waterways are highly trafficked and frequently transited by large cargo vessels that are restricted to the center of the channel by their draft. All vessels entering these waterways should carefully monitor the movement of other vessels. Vessels entering the Sabine-Neches are required to contact VTS Port Arthur on channels 01A/65A. Vessels entering the Calcasieu Ship Channel are encouraged to contact the Lake Charles Pilots VTIS on VHF-FM Channel 66A.

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) 723-6500 or MSU Lake Charles at (337) 912-0073.

M. A. WIKE

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port