



**MARINE SAFETY AND SECURITY
INFORMATION BULLETIN
(MSIB) 06-06**



May 23, 2006

Coast Guard Sector San Francisco
Department of Homeland Security

**CHEMICAL TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOLLOWING SERIOUS
MARINE INCIDENTS**

Overview: On December 22, 2005, the Coast Guard published a Final Rule modifying alcohol testing requirements for commercial vessels following a Serious Marine Incident (SMI). An SMI includes a death; an injury to a crewmember or passenger which requires professional medical treatment; damage to property in excess of \$100,000; or a discharge of 10,000 gallons of oil (see 46 Code of Federal Regulations 4.03-2). This rule requires mariners directly involved in a SMI be tested for alcohol within two hours of the incident's occurrence. This rule also makes some minor procedural changes, including establishing a 32-hour time limit for collecting specimens for drug testing following a SMI. Consequently, the rule will require a majority of commercial vessels to carry an alcohol testing device on board. Approved devices can be found on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Conforming Products List of Evidential Breath Measurement Devices and the NHTSA Conforming Products List of Alcohol Screening Devices and include devices that test saliva samples. The new rule becomes effective June 20, 2006.

Applicability: All inspected and uninspected commercial vessels operating within US territorial waters (12 nautical miles). This includes all small passenger vessels, towing vessels, offshore supply vessels, fishing vessels, and foreign flag vessels.

Reference: The Final Rule may be accessed at the following web-link:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-24375.pdf>

Questions: LTJG Sara Young
11th Coast Guard District Eleven Drug and Alcohol Program Inspector
(510) 437-6624
Sara.E.Young@uscg.mil

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. J. Uberti".

W. J. UBERTI

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port /Officer In Charge, Marine Inspection