

Sector Houston-Galveston  
*Marine Safety Information Bulletin*  
*MSIB 07-08*

***ENFORCEMENT POLICY FOR NONTANK VESSEL  
RESPONSE PLAN REQUIREMENTS***

*July 7, 2008*

As a follow-up to MSIB 04-08, dated April 7, 2008, I am providing the latest Nontank Vessel Response Plan (NTVRP) information.

As published in the Federal Register of June 23, 2008, the U.S. Coast Guard will enforce the requirement that any nontank vessel of at least 400 gross tons carrying oil as fuel for main propulsion must prepare and submit a NTVRP. We will begin our enforcement effort on August 22, 2008 by screening all nontank vessels prior to their port arrival.

If a vessel is unable to provide a valid NTVRP submittal acknowledgement fax, a revision letter, or an interim two year operating authorization letter, the vessel will be denied port entry until it provides such evidence. Further, if the U.S. Coast Guard finds the required elements of the NTVRP missing or not to be in compliance with 33 U.S.C. 1321 (j)(5)(D), applicable vessels may be detained until the noted deficiencies are corrected.

Nontank vessels of less than 1,600 gross tons are considered to pose less of a threat, in part because of the smaller and lighter quantities of fuel carried. These vessels must still submit NTVRPs for review; however, this interim enforcement policy will focus on those nontank vessels of 1,600 gross tons or greater until implementing regulations are published.

Vessel representatives can access the U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Response Plan website, <http://www.e-vrp.com>, to determine the status of any Vessel Response Plan submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Vessel Activities (CG-5431). Submitted NTVRPs which are in an "interim operations" or "pending" status are clear for port entry. NTVRPs that are listed in an "inactive" status are not authorized for port entry. For additional information on vessel response plans go to <http://www.uscg.mil/vrp> or contact Commander Rob Smith, U.S. Coast Guard, Chief, Prevention Department at (713) 671-5186.



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