

Sector Houston-Galveston

Marine Safety Information Bulletin

12-09

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT POLICY ON REQUIREMENTS FOR PREWASH OPERATIONS

November 4, 2009

Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 03-06 released on November 28, 2006 states pre-wash operations should be conducted under the revised MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Annex II. For cargoes classified and carried under the revised MARPOL Annex II, third-party surveyors may witness the pre-wash operation and sign the Cargo Record Book in place of a Coast Guard inspector.

At a minimum, the Captain of the Port requires the following provisions prior to conducting a pre-wash operation for Category X NLS cargoes or Category Y high viscosity or solidifying cargoes where conditions do not allow for omission of the pre-wash:

1. As required by Title 46 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 153.1101(a), an initial notice of at least 24 hours shall be given to the Captain of the Port (COTP) before a surveyor is required. Pre-wash operation updates must be made 3 hours prior to the anticipated start time. The pre-wash may not start until the surveyor is present as required by 46 CFR 153.1120.
2. Notify Sector Houston-Galveston Port State Control at (713) 671-5184 & Fax or email the Pre-wash Operation Notification Sheet, Attachment 1 to Sector Houston-Galveston Port State Control at (713) 671-5185 or PSCHouston@USCG.mil. After hours contact the Sector Command Center at (713) 671-5113; Fax (713)-671-5177.
3. If an accepted third-party surveyor cannot witness the required pre-wash prior to departure of the port of discharge, a Coast Guard inspector must be requested. The request should reflect why a third-party surveyor could not witness the pre-wash.
4. Even if a third-party surveyor is used, a Coast Guard team may be sent to monitor the pre-wash operation to ensure that proper safety measures have been taken and pre-wash operations are being conducted as per applicable regulations.

Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 01-07 dated February 1, 2007 is hereby cancelled. For additional information, contact Sector Houston-Galveston Port State Control at (713)-671-5184 or PSCHouston@USCG.mil.



J. H. WHITEHEAD

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard

Acting Commander, Sector Houston-Galveston

Attachment (1): Pre-wash Operations Notification Sheet

Sector Houston-Galveston, 9640 Clinton Drive, TX 77029,
Phone: (713) 671-5100, Fax: (713) 671-5177