



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Carriage Standards for Bridge Navigational Watch Alarm Systems (BNWAS) Aboard U.S. Flagged Vessels

Today the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) published a *Federal Register* notice announcing carriage standards for Bridge Navigational Watch Alarm Systems (BNWAS), in accordance with the Articles of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Chapter V, Regulation 19. The purpose of a BNWAS is to detect operator disability that could lead to marine accidents. The Coast Guard has not yet adopted domestic regulations to implement the SOLAS BNWAS requirements. Therefore, carriage of a BNWAS on U.S. flagged vessels is voluntary. The notice advises the public that any vessel operating on international voyages without a BNWAS past the applicable compliance date may be subject to detention by foreign port state officials and other administrative action by foreign authorities. The Coast Guard and Recognized Class Societies will continue to issue SOLAS Safety Equipment Certificates to vessels, regardless of BNWAS compliance. The certificates will reflect whether the vessel is in compliance with the SOLAS BNWAS requirements.

The notice may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> docket number: USCG-2012-0772.

For more information, please contact Lieutenant Commander Christopher Gagnon, U.S. Coast Guard, Commercial Vessel Compliance Division (CG-CVC-1), telephone 202-372-1224 or e-mail CG-cvc-1@uscg.mil.

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