

United States Aids to Navigation System

Large navigational buoys. We propose to remove § 62.39 because the Coast Guard no longer uses the large navigational buoys described in that section. We now use the Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) for navigational assistance.

Maritime radiobeacon system. We propose to remove subpart C (Maritime Radiobeacons) of 33 CFR part 62. The sections in it, §§ 62.55, 62.57, 62.59, and 62.61, describe a radiobeacon system that has been replaced by DGPS.

Procedures for reporting defects and discrepancies. We propose to revise § 62.65(c)(2) by removing the last sentence that allows the use of collect calls. Because there are so many ways to reach the Coast Guard, this collect call option is no longer necessary.

Private Aids to Navigation

Application procedure. In § 66.01–5(g) we propose to remove the term “fog signals” and add, in its place, the term “sound signals” to reflect current usage. These signals alert operators to many environmental conditions besides fog that reduce visibility—for example, mist, rain, falling snow, smoke, and dust.

State waters for private aids to navigation; designations; revisions, and revocations. We propose to make the language in § 66.05–10 gender-neutral.

Change and modification of State aids to navigation. We propose to make the language in § 66.05–25 gender-neutral. We also propose to remove the word “preferably” to give a definitive deadline for the State Administrator to inform the District Commander of the need for a change in the State aids to navigation.

Notice to Mariners. We propose to make § 66.05–30 gender-neutral.

Designation of navigable waters as State waters for private aids to navigation. In § 66.05–100(e), for clarity, we propose to change the reference to “Each navigable water” to simply “Navigable waters”.

Uniform State waterway aids to navigation. In § 66.10–15, we propose to make paragraphs (b), (c), (e)(1), and (e)(3) gender-neutral. And we propose to remove the editorial note for § 66.10–15. This note points out that the heading of amendatory instruction no. 16 at 63 FR 33574, June 19, 1998, referred to a non-existent § 66.19–15; the heading should have read “§ 66.10–15 Aids to navigation.” This NPRM serves to document that error and eliminate the need for maintaining this distracting note in the CFR.

Aids to Navigation on Artificial Islands and Fixed Structures

Throughout 33 CFR part 67, we propose to replace the term “fog signals” with “sound signals” to reflect current usage. These signals alert operators to many environmental conditions, not just fog.

General requirements. We propose to make §§ 67.01–10, 67.01–15, 67.01–20, and 67.05–1 gender-neutral. In addition, we proposed to revise the first three of these sections to clarify the roles of agency personnel.

Classification of structures. As part of our proposed clarification of § 67.01–15, classification of structures, we plan to consolidate common language repeated in six district regulations in subpart 67.50 into this one section applicable to all of part 67. By moving this commonly-shared classification of structures language to § 67.01–15, we will be able to delete this repetitive language from §§ 67.50–5, 67.50–15, 67.50–20, 67.50–30, 67.50–45, and 67.50–50.

Lights and signals on attendant vessels. We propose to revise § 67.15–1 by correcting a U.S. Code citation and adding new authority references.

Spoil Banks, artificial islands, and dredged channels marking requirements. We propose to revise § 67.15–10(b) to establish that the District Commander would both review applications and issue permits.

Class A and B requirements. We propose to make the language in §§ 67.20–10 and 67.25–10 gender-neutral and to change the term “fog signal” to “sound signal”.

Obstruction lights. We propose to revise § 67.30–5(a) to replace an old address with a current one.

Fog Signals. We propose to revise § 67.30–10, including its heading, to change the term “fog signal” to “sound signal”.

Notification to District Commander. We propose to make the language in § 67.40–1 gender-neutral. We also propose to allow those constructing structures an additional means of notifying the District Commander that construction has commenced. We currently require notice by telegram. We propose to add the option of notification via overnight mail.

Notification waivers. We propose to make the language in § 67.40–5 gender-neutral.

Charges for marking structures invoiced to owner. We propose to revise § 67.40–20 to change the term “fog signal” to “sound signal”.

Marine Information

Local Notice to Mariners. We propose to add a note to § 72.01–5 to inform the reader of a Web address where an electronic version of “Local Notice to Mariners” can be located.

Notice to Mariners. We propose to add a Web address note to § 72.01–10 to inform the reader where an electronic version of “Notice to Mariners” can be located.

Free distribution of Light List. We propose to add a note to § 72.05–10 to inform the reader of a Web address where an electronic version of Coast Guard Light List data may be obtained.

Regulatory Evaluation

This proposed rule is not a “significant regulatory action” under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under that Order. It is not “significant” under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Cost of Rule. The proposed rule would impose no costs either on owners and operators of aids to navigation or on owners and operators of vessels on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Some owners and operators, however, may need to update contact information in their files, which is a normal business practice and therefore the cost is negligible.

Benefits of the Rule. The proposed rule would update various technical references to incorporate improvements in technology and practices. The rule would also rewrite some sections to make them easier to understand and to reflect gender-neutral language. We expect that this proposed rule would improve operational efficiency and boater’s safety.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), we have considered whether this proposed rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. This proposed rule would update technical information to reflect current practices and to rewrite some sections for clarity.