

(g) *Information to be reported to the Inland River Vessel Movement Center by fleeting area managers.* Fleeting area

managers responsible for one or more CDC barges in the RNA must report the information required by this section, as

set out in table 165.830(g) to this paragraph.

TABLE 165.830(g).—INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED TO THE INLAND RIVER VESSEL MOVEMENT CENTER (IRVMC) BY FLEETING AREA MANAGERS

| | 24 hr contact number | Barge(s) name and official number | Type, name and amount of CDC onboard | Location of CDC barge (fleeting area or facility) |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Once daily, all CDC barges in a fleeting area | X | X | X | X |
| (2) Upon moving one or more CDC barges from one fleeting area to another fleeting area or facility, by a fleet tow boat | | X | X | X |
| (3) Any significant deviation from previously reported information (all that apply) | X | X | X | X |
| (4) When directed by the IRVMC | X | X | X | X |

(h) *Alternative reporting.* The Eighth Coast Guard District Commander may consider and approve alternative methods to be used by a reporting party to meet any reporting requirements if:

(1) the request is submitted in writing to Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District (m), Hale Boggs Federal Bldg., 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130; and

(2) the alternative provides an equivalent level of the reporting that which would be achieved by the Coast Guard with the required check-in points.

(i) Deviation from this section is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District or the IRVMC.

Dated: July 22, 2003.

R.F. Duncan,

Rear Admiral, Coast Guard, Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[CGD09-03-241]

RIN 1625-AA11

Regulated Navigation Area; Reporting Requirements for Barges Loaded With Certain Dangerous Cargoes, Illinois Waterway System Within the Ninth Coast Guard District

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes an interim rule to establish a regulated navigation area (RNA) for all portions of the Illinois Waterway System located in the Ninth Coast Guard District. This

RNA will apply to towing vessel operators and fleeting area managers who are responsible for the movement of barges carrying certain dangerous cargoes on inland rivers and requires them to report their position and other information to the Inland River Vessel Movement Center. This action is necessary to ensure public safety, prevent sabotage or terrorist acts, and facilitate the efforts of emergency services and law enforcement officers responding to terrorist attacks.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before September 15, 2003. Comments sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on collection of information must reach OMB on or before September 15, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Commander (m), Ninth Coast Guard District, 1240 E. Ninth Street, Cleveland, OH 44199. Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District (m) maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of docket [CGD09-03-241] and are available for inspection or copying at Commander (m), Ninth Coast Guard District, 1240 E. Ninth Street, Cleveland, OH 44199 between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You must also mail comments on collection of information to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, ATTN: Desk Officer, U.S. Coast Guard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Commander Michael Gardiner or Lieutenant Matthew Colmer, Ninth Coast Guard District Marine Safety Division, at (216) 902-6045.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Information

On May 2, 2003, the Coast Guard published a similar temporary final rule and request for comments entitled “Regulated Navigation Area; Reporting Requirements for Barges Loaded With Certain Dangerous Cargoes, Illinois Waterway System Within the Ninth Coast Guard District” in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 23399).

The Ninth Coast Guard District did not receive any comments with regard to this rulemaking. However, since this rulemaking compliments a parallel rule published by the Eighth Coast Guard District on May 2, 2003 (68 FR 23393), comments received by the Eighth District are addressed in this rulemaking as if received in response to our temporary final rule.

As of July 9, 2003, we have received six written comments on the temporary rule. The American Waterways Operators (AWO) requested a meeting with the Eighth Coast Guard District regarding the temporary rule. A meeting was held on May 8, 2003, at the Hale Boggs Federal Building in New Orleans, LA.

Given that the temporary rule will expire October 31, 2003, the Coast Guard is allowing 45 days to comment on this proposed interim rule. The Coast Guard considers 45 days to be sufficient because we have already received comments from two associations—AWO and Gulf Coast Marine Association (GCMA), and two of the companies impacted by the temporary rule. As indicated in our “Discussion of Comments and Changes” section below, we have considered these comments in drafting our proposed interim rule and, where appropriate, we have made the proposed rule less burdensome than the temporary rule currently in effect. Also, this proposed rule would be issued as an interim rule with an additional comment period before we would impose any final rule.