

# **MEMBER ALERT**



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**JUNE 16, 2022**

## **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG) GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT AND HANDLING OF LIMITED AMOUNTS OF HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES IN BULK ON OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSELS**

The USCG's Office of Design Engineering Standards has recently released a policy letter, [\*Implementation of IMO Resolution A.673\(16\), Guidelines for the Transport and Handling of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk on Offshore Support Vessels, For New and Existing U.S. Offshore Supply Vessels\*](#) summarizing forthcoming requirements for United States (US) flagged offshore supply vessels (OSVs).

The policy update provides guidance on the implementation of revisions to MARPOL Annex II guidelines and the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) as it relates to new and existing US flagged OSVs. It is intended to guide voluntary compliance until such time as the new international standards are more fully incorporated in the applicable US regulations.

In summary, before the expiration of a vessel's certificate of fitness (COF), a plan must be proposed to the USCG's Hazardous Materials Division (CG-ENG-5) to meet the updated requirements for affected products, or with proposed equivalencies to specific requirements. Once a plan is approved, the modifications will be required by the vessel's next drydock date.

Vessel companies have been granted extensions to their COFs in the interim between the effective date of the amendments and the publishing of the updated policy letter. As of now, those extensions have been granted until December 31, 2022.

Your Managers recommend that Members take note of this information and be guided accordingly.