



## **Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 16-001** **Foreign-Flagged Yacht Examinations**

**March 7, 2016**

On November 18, 2015, Coast Guard Headquarters promulgated procedures for examining foreign-flagged yachts that are passenger vessels and for other such vessels measuring 300 or more gross tons. Although yachts are normally operated as recreational vessels, they may be subject to inspection as seagoing motor vessels depending on their size and area of operation. Owners/operators are ultimately responsible for maintaining vessel safety and ensuring the validity of all relevant certificates and compliance of crew and equipment with applicable domestic and international laws.

Foreign-flagged yachts will fit into one of the following three categories and should refer to Enclosure (1) of CG-CVC Policy Letter 15-04 for assistance in determining requirements of vessel owners/operators:

- 1) Foreign-Flagged Yachts Engaged In Trade Carrying More Than 12 Passengers*
- 2) Foreign-Flagged Yachts Engaged In Trade Carrying 12 or Fewer Passengers*
- 3) Foreign-Flagged Yachts Not Engaged In Trade Carrying Non-Paying Guests*

Additionally, we have provided a flow chart and questionnaire for foreign flagged yachts (Enclosure 1 and 2) to assist owner/operators in determining applicability, inspection regime and compliance.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Miami reminds all owners/operators of foreign-flagged yachts measuring 300 gross tons or more, that they must submit a Notice of Arrival (NOA) and hold a valid Certificate of Financial Responsibility (COFR) in accordance with 33 CFR 160 & 33 CFR 138. Also, owners/operators of foreign-flagged vessels 400 gross tons or more are required to have a valid Non-Tank Vessel Response Plan (NTVRP) in accordance with 33 CFR 155.

Compliance with all required safety and pollution prevention regulations will be verified by Port State Control Officers at specified intervals based on guidance contained in CG-CVC Policy Letter 15-04, which can be found at [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcvc/cvc/policy/policy\\_letters.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcvc/cvc/policy/policy_letters.asp).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. J. GOULD".

A. J. GOULD  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port, Miami

Enclosures: (1) Foreign Flagged Yacht Flow Chart  
(2) Questionnaire for Foreign Flagged Yachts