

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HAZMAT TRAINING FOR VESSEL PERSONNEL

During a recent trip overseas, USCG Sector New Orleans Marine Inspectors identified several Offshore Supply Vessels' crews that were unfamiliar with the handling, segregation, compatibility, and emergency response of hazardous materials on board the vessels. Specifically, during fire drills, the crews were unfamiliar with the reactivity of water with certain cargoes that were being carried on the deck of the vessel per 49 CFR 172 and 49 CFR 176.

Specifically, 49 CFR 172.700 requires the following:

Purpose and scope

- (a) Purpose. This subpart prescribes requirements for training hazmat employees.
- (b) Scope. Training as used in this subpart means a systematic program that ensures a hazmat employee has familiarity with the general provisions of this subchapter, is able to recognize and identify hazardous materials, has knowledge of specific requirements of this subchapter applicable to functions performed by the employee, and has knowledge of emergency response information, self-protection measures and accident prevention methods and procedures (see §172.704).
- (c) Modal-specific training requirements. Additional training requirements for the individual modes of transportation are prescribed in parts 174, 175, 176, and 177 of this subchapter."

Several vessels were found to be unfamiliar with emergency response procedures. Shipping papers and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) were found to be in a foreign language and no translations were provided to crew members on board which could result in a severely delayed or potentially catastrophic emergency response on board a USCG certificated vessel.

Owners/Operators are reminded that they are required to ensure appropriate training is provided to the crew of vessels carrying dangerous/hazardous materials in accordance with 49 CFR 172, 176, and the IMDG Code. Crew members on board vessels with dangerous/hazardous materials are considered "hazmat employees" and must understand the dangers involved with the handling of such cargo.

If you have any further questions, please contact CWO Mark Dunbar at 504-365-2274.



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