

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Mississippi River Regulated Navigation Area Vessel Requirements concerning load-limiting programs & automatic acceleration limiting programs

OVERVIEW

Recently the Captain of the Port New Orleans has received several reports of vessels underway on the Lower Mississippi River with a main engine unable to immediately achieve maximum ahead revolutions when requested by the pilot on board. In each case the main engines were found in good working order, but were unable to answer to the full range of engine order commands because some type of automatic acceleration or load limiting program that prevented the main engine from immediately achieving the desired RPM's.

DETAILS

In accordance with 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 165.810 (f)(3)(iii), Mississippi River, LA-Regulated Navigation Area (RNA), Masters operating self-propelled vessels of 1600 or more gross tons are reminded that before the vessel proceeds underway in the RNA, the Chief Engineer has certified that main propulsion machinery is available to immediately respond to the full range of maneuvering commands and any load-limiting programs or automatic acceleration-limiting programs that would limit the speed of response to engine orders beyond that needed to prevent immediate damage to the propulsion machinery are capable of being overridden immediately.

In order to ensure compliance with this regulation, the COTP recommends the Master and Chief Engineer ensure familiarization training has been provided to each Officers in Charge of a Watch so that they are knowledgeable and capable of immediately overriding the main engine load-limiting programs or automatic acceleration-limiting programs at the discretion of the attending pilot.

If you have any questions, please contact the Port State Control Branch at 504-365-2330 or pscnola@uscg.mil.



CAPTAIN P.C. SCHIFFLIN
Captain of the Port New Orleans

For a current list of MSIBs within the COTP New Orleans Zone visit <https://homeport.uscg.mil/nola>, and look under "Safety and Security"