

Q&As generated by ALCOAST 110/08, REVISED INTERNET RELEASE  
AUTHORIZATION POLICY FOR OFFICIAL COAST GUARD RECORD MESSAGES.

Q: Why change the Internet Release Authority Policy now?

A: Transparency - that is the goal of Admiral Allen; to ensure that public information is made readily available to our internal and external audiences. The goal of the new [www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil) website is to have one official source for relevant, timely and important Coast Guard information. It is intended for everyone interested in our service - active duty, reservists, auxiliaries, civilian employees, family members, and of course, the American public.

For over 10 years the Coast Guard has allowed members to email or post certain messages directly from CG Message System (CGMS)/CG INTRANET to the INTERNET. While valuable, this policy allowed our information to go out in a fractured, unofficial manner. ALCOAST 110/08 improves this process and the way we share information. [www.uscg.mil/announcements](http://www.uscg.mil/announcements) is updated/maintained by the HQ CommCen and accessible to all, especially those members of Team Coast Guard who do not routinely have access to the CG INTRANET. The burden is on us to ensure the information we post is correct and updated.

Q: Does this mean no one else can post Coast Guard Messages on the web?

A: Once information is posted on [www.uscg.mil/announcements](http://www.uscg.mil/announcements), it is in the public domain. These messages can be freely copied and distributed by all webpage visitors, and we highly encourage our visitors to do so.

Q: Were there any certain incidents that caused the policy change?

A: No. It was just time. The many web pages that have unofficially posted our messages showed us we needed to clarify our policy and procedures. ALCOAST 110/08 is more proactive rather than reactive. It requires drafters/ originators of CG messages to more carefully screen the information they intend for public release with added emphasis on the protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII). This will further assist in making sure no inappropriate information is posted.

Q: What happened to the routers and Date Time Group (DTG)? Don't I need those to track messages?

A: The message number (ALCOAST, ALPERSCOM, ALCGENL, etc.) is sufficient information to refer to a message. The sender is located at the bottom of each message. Besides, the text is the only part of the message that was ever actually authorized for INTERNET release; not the entire message (routers, date time group, etc.) Those in the Coast Guard who might require this information can access the entire message via other official sources.

CG-6, CIO