

## §91.27-5

(4) Nothing in this subpart limits the marine inspector from conducting such tests or inspections he or she deems necessary to be assured of the vessel's seaworthiness.

[USCG 1999-4976, 65 FR 6501, Feb. 9, 2000]

### **§91.27-5 Certificate of Inspection: Conditions of validity.**

To maintain a valid Certificate of Inspection, you must complete your annual and periodic inspections within the periods specified in §91.27-1 (a) and (b) and your Certificate of Inspection must be endorsed.

[USCG 1999-4976, 65 FR 6502, Feb. 9, 2000]

### **§91.27-13 Alternative annual inspection for offshore supply vessels less than 400 gross tons in foreign ports.**

(a) The owner or operator of an offshore supply vessel of less than 400 gross tons, except liftboats as defined in §90.10-20 of this chapter, may request authorization to conduct an alternative annual inspection in place of the annual inspection described in §91.27-1(a) of this chapter. You must submit your request to the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection responsible for conducting inspections in the country in which the vessel is operating and will be examined. To qualify for the alternative annual inspection, you must meet the following requirements:

(1) The request for authorization must be in writing and received by the cognizant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection before the end of the twelfth month of each COI anniversary year.

(2) The vessel is expected to be continuously employed outside of the United States during the 3 months before and after each anniversary date of the issuance of the COI.

(b) In determining whether to grant authorization for the alternative annual inspection, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection will consider the following:

(1) Information contained in previous inspection and drydock examination reports, including the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection's recommendation for participation in the alternative midperiod examination program, and the alternative annual inspection program.

## 46 CFR Ch. I (10-1-06 Edition)

(2) The nature, number, and severity of any marine casualties or accidents, as defined in §4.03-1 of this chapter, which the vessel has experienced in the last 3 years.

(3) The nature, number, and severity of any outstanding inspection requirements for the vessel.

(4) The owner or operator's history of compliance and cooperation in the alternative midperiod examination program and the alternative annual inspection program, which includes—

(i) The prompt correction of deficiencies;

(ii) The reliability of previously submitted alternative examination and annual inspection reports; and

(iii) The reliability of representations that the vessel under consideration will be, and other vessels previously examined under this section were, employed outside of the United States for the 3 month period before and after each anniversary date.

(c) If authorization is granted, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection must provide the applicant written authorization to proceed with the alternative annual inspection, including special instructions when appropriate.

(d) The following conditions must be met for the alternative annual inspection to be accepted by the Coast Guard in lieu of conducting an annual inspection in accordance with §91.27-1(a) of this subpart.

(1) The alternative annual inspection must be conducted within 3 months before and after each anniversary date.

(2) The alternative annual inspection must be of the scope detailed in §91.27-1(a) of this subpart and must be conducted by the vessel's master, operator, or a designated representative of the owner or operator.

(3) Upon completion of the alternative annual inspection, the person or persons conducting the inspection must prepare a comprehensive report describing the conditions found. This inspection report must contain sufficient detail to allow an evaluation to be made by the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection to whom the report is submitted that the vessel is fit for the service and route specified on the Certificate of Inspection. The report must