



## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 001-12

May 16, 2012

### PHASE 2 TOWING VESSEL BRIDGING PROGRAM

This Marine Safety Information Bulletin announces the Coast Guard's transition of the Towing Vessel Bridging Program (TVBP) to Phase 2 on July 1, 2012.

In Phase 1, the Coast Guard encouraged industry to participate in Industry Initiated Examinations (IIEs) which emphasized education during Coast Guard/Industry interactions, acclimating industry to an inspection-like process and ensuring compliance with existing 46 CFR Subchapter B and C requirements. Industry response to Phase 1 has been encouraging with 55% of the towing vessels in the First Coast Guard District participating to date. The Coast Guard will continue to honor requests for Industry Initiated Exams throughout Phase 2.


The Coast Guard strongly encourages affected companies to make every effort to schedule IIEs for Towing Vessels not yet examined with their local Coast Guard offices.

After successful completion of an examination, the vessel will receive a Coast Guard Towing Vessel Exam decal valid for three years. Industry and examiners are reminded that the rules for Subchapter M are only proposed rules and therefore could change significantly before a Final Rule is published. The Coast Guard will not require towing vessel companies to comply with what is currently a proposed rule.

In Phase 2, more focus will be placed on Prioritized Exams, underway Law Enforcement (LE) boardings, and surge operations, and emphasis will be on vessels that have not participated in the IIE program.

Prioritized Exams and underway LE boardings are public exams and the results will be posted at the Port State Information Exchange (PSIX) website at <http://cgmix.uscg.mil/psix/>. IIE exams are not public record and will not be visible to outside entities.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact LT Kevin Miller at (617) 223-8272 or [Kevin.L.Miller2@uscg.mil](mailto:Kevin.L.Miller2@uscg.mil).

  
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