

**Supporting Statement
for
Small Passenger Vessels – Title 46 CFR
Subchapters K and T**

OMB No.: 1625-0057
COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS: CG-841, CG-854,
CG-948, CG-949, CG-3752, CG-5256

A. Justification

1. Circumstances that make the collection necessary.

Under the authority of the Secretary found in 46 U.S.C. 3305 and 3306, the Coast Guard must prescribe necessary regulations and conduct inspections of small passenger vessels to secure the safety of individuals and property on board. The regulations must address the design, construction, alteration, repair, and operation of these vessels, including requirements for lifesaving equipment, firefighting equipment, inspections, and tests. Based upon this mandate, the information requirements in the regulations are necessary to verify that tests, drills, and training is conducted by vessel personnel to ensure proper reaction when emergencies do occur.

The passenger and crew list requirements are based on the requirements of 46 U.S.C. 3502 as well as recommendations from National Transportation Safety Board and Coast Guard casualty investigations involving small passenger vessels.

This information collection supports the following strategic goals:

Department of Homeland Security

- Protection
- Prevention

Coast Guard

- Safety
- Protection of the Natural Resources

Prevention Policy & Response Policy Directorates (CG-5P & CG-5R)

- Safety: Eliminate deaths, injuries, and property damage associated with commercial maritime operations.
- Human and Natural Environment: Eliminate environmental damage associated with maritime transportation and operations on and around the nation's waterways.

2. How, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used.

The information requirements such as logging or otherwise documenting crew training, drills, and safety equipment testing provide inspectors with a means to verify compliance with requirements for proper safety equipment operation and crew emergency preparedness.

3. Use of improved technology.

Information may be submitted in writing or electronically via e-mail, to the CG Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) at the local Sector Office, or the CG Marine Safety Center (MSC). Contact info for CG OCMI's can be found at— <http://www.uscg.mil/top/units/>. For information on submitting information to the CG MSC, go to— <https://homeport.uscg.mil/msc> > Contact Us > Mail Address, Telephone Contacts, and E-Commerce Info. We estimate that 99% of the reporting requirements can be done electronically. At this time, we estimate that 30% of responses are collected electronically.

4. Efforts to identify duplication.

There are no other agencies with similar requirements for small passenger vessels.

5. Methods used to minimize burden on small businesses or other small entities.

Most of small passenger vessels inspected under Subchapter T (T-boats) are owned and operated by small businesses. The Coast Guard has taken steps to provide these business owners with flexibility and options to comply with certain requirements. Though the Coast Guard establishes a deadline to conduct inspection for certification, a T-boat owner is able to submit an Application for Inspection well in advance of this deadline so that the inspection may be completed at a more convenient time. The requirements for voyage plans and passenger counts permit the vessel owner to communicate the required information verbally or in writing to place at the vessel's normal berthing location or with the vessel's owner, managing operator, or representative. The information must only be provided to the Government upon request.

6. Consequences of less frequent collection.

Reducing the frequency of collection would hinder or degrade the administration of the small passenger vessel inspection program.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause the information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines.

This information collection is conducted in manner consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5(d) (2).

8. Solicitation of comments and consultation with persons outside the agency.

A 60-Day Notice (See [USCG-2013-1007], January 29, 2014, 79 FR 4746) and 30-Day Notice (March 31, 2014, 79 FR 18042) were published in the Federal Register to obtain public comment on this collection. The Coast Guard has not received any comments on this information collection.

9. Payments or gifts to respondents.

The Coast Guard does not provide payments or gifts to respondents in exchange for a benefit sought.

10. Assurances of confidentiality.

There are no assurances of confidentiality provided to the respondents for this information collection.

11. Questions of a sensitive nature.

There are no questions of sensitive language.

12. Estimate of the burden hours and cost of the collection of information.

- The estimated number of annual respondents is 6,266.
- The estimated number of annual responses is 34,623.
- The estimated hour burden is 399,420 hours.
- The estimated cost burden is \$27,064,824.

The assumptions of time, frequency, percent of population, and performing personnel, on which the

annual hour and cost burdens of this Collection of Information are based, are detailed in Appendix A. Using these assumptions, and the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) database, the Coast Guard estimated the annual average amount of responses and respondents due to reporting requirements under 46 CFR Subchapters K and T. These estimates are outlined in Appendix B.

Beyond reporting, many of the requirements of this Collection of Information also address recordkeeping, which contributes largely to the hour and cost burdens attributable to information requirements. The annual industry reporting and recordkeeping hour and cost burdens are outlined by section in Appendix C, and summarized in the aggregate in Appendix D.

13. Estimate of annualized capital and start-up costs.

There are no capital, start-up or maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

14. Annualized cost to the Federal Government.

The estimated annual Federal Government cost is \$1,958,986. The annualized cost is detailed by section in Appendix E and summarized in Appendix F.

15. Reasons for changes.

The change in burden (i.e., increase) is an ADJUSTMENT due to an increase in the estimated annual number of respondents.

16. Collection of information whose results will be published.

The Coast Guard does not intend to employ the use of statistics or the publication thereof for this information collection.

17. Inappropriate display of OMB approval expiration date.

The Coast Guard will display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection.

18. Exception to the certification statement.

The Coast Guard does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

This information collection does not employ statistical methods.