

**Supporting Statement  
for  
Plan Approval and Records for Vital System Automation**

OMB No.: 1625-0047  
COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS: Instruction

**A. Justification**

1. Circumstances which make the collection of information necessary.

(a) The collection of information pertaining to the vital automation systems of commercial vessels is necessary to protect personnel and property on board U.S. flag commercial vessels. The vital systems in machinery and engineering spaces of Coast Guard inspected commercial vessels are automated for a variety of reasons. These reasons include convenience of operation, improvements of efficiency, reduction of personnel, and the detection and control of unsafe conditions. Most automation is implemented at the discretion of the vessel owner to reduce necessary manning and increase operating efficiency, thereby significantly reducing operating costs.

(b) The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) currently addresses the technical criteria for the safe and reliable automation of these vessels—see 46 CFR Parts 61 and 62. The statutory authority for the requirements is 46 U.S.C. 3306. These regulations also ensure that U.S. flag vessels conform to the automation regulations of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea. The U.S. is signatory to this convention.

This information collection supports the following strategic goals:

Department of Homeland Security

- Prevention

Coast Guard

- Maritime Safety

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

- Reduce crewmember deaths and injuries on U.S. commercial vessels
- Reduce the number of collisions, allisions, and groundings

2. Purpose of the information collection.

This information, which is collected by the Coast Guard, is used to determine compliance with safety regulations. Through the review of the plans prior to construction, the vessel owner or builder may be assured that the vessel, if built in accordance with the plans, will meet the regulatory standards.

3. Considerations of the use of improved technology.

The Coast Guard Marine Safety Center (MSC) accepts information/plans via electronic submittal. For information on submitting information go to— <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/msc>. Information may also be submitted to the CG Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) at the local Sector Office. Contact info for CG OCMI's can be found at—<https://www.uscg.mil/Units/Organization/>. Electronic submission is voluntary, and we estimate that 93% of respondents submit their plans electronically.

4. Efforts to identify duplication.

There are no other Federal agencies with similar programs, thus there is no duplication of other Federal information collections.

5. Methods used to minimize the burdens to small business if involved.

This information collection does not have an impact on small businesses or other small entities.

6. Consequences to the Federal program if collection were conducted less frequently.

If this information were not collected, the Coast Guard would not be able to carry out its responsibility for the promotion of safety on commercial vessels. The information cannot be collected any less frequently, as the information is submitted when the owner seeks Coast Guard approval of automation installations or changes in vessel manning.

7. Special collection circumstances.

This information collection is conducted in a manner consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320(d)(2).

8. Consultation.

A 60-day Notice (See [USCG-2018-0882], November 19, 2018, 83 FR 58270) and 30-day Notice (March 1, 2019, 84 FR 7097) 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. Provide any payments or gifts to respondents.

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

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents.

There are no assurances of confidentiality provided to the respondents for this information collection. This information collection request is covered by the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) and System of Records Notice (SORN). Links to the MISLE PIA and SORN are provided below:

- [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/privacy\\_pia\\_uscg\\_misle.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/privacy_pia_uscg_misle.pdf)
- <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-06-25/html/E9-14906.htm>

11. Additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature.

There are no questions of sensitive language.

12. Estimate of annual hour and cost burdens to respondents.

- The estimated annual number of respondents is 120.
- The estimated annual number of responses is 913.
- The estimated annual hour burden is 68,475 hours.
- The estimated annual cost burden is \$6,368,175.

The burden to respondents is provided in Appendix A. We estimate that it takes 75 hours per plan submission<sup>1</sup> and that a submission is done by a technical specialist. The position of a technical specialist is equivalent to a GS-13. The wage rate used is in accordance with the current edition of COMDTINST 7310.1(series) for "Out-Government" personnel.

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Plan submission is not an annual requirement. A plan submission is only required for ship construction or modification.

14. Estimates of annualized Federal Government costs.

The estimated annual Federal Government cost is \$160,688 (see Appendix B). We estimate that it will take 2 hours by a GS-13 to review and process each submission. The wage rate shown is in accordance with the current edition of COMDTINST 7310.1(series) for "In-Government" personnel.

15. Explain the reasons for change in burden.

The change in burden is an ADJUSTMENT due to a change (i.e., increase) in the estimated annual number of responses. There is no proposed change to the reporting requirements of this collection. The reporting requirements, and the methodology for calculating burden, remain unchanged.

16. Plans for tabulation, statistical analysis and publication.

This information collection will not be published for statistical purposes.

17. Approval for not explaining the expiration date for OMB approval.

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. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods**

This information collection does not employ statistical methods.