Supporting Statement
for
Security Zones, Regulated Navigation Areas, and Safety Zones

OMB No.: 1625-0020
COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS: Instruction

A. Justification.

1. Circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

a) Security Zones: Executive Order 10173 (October 20, 1950) authorized the Coast Guard to prescribe procedures for establishing and appealing security zones. These regulations are contained in 33 CFR Parts 6 and 165. Security zones are areas of land, water, or land and water designated by the Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) where access is limited to authorized persons, vehicles, vessels or waterfront facilities. Security Zones are necessary to prevent destruction, loss or injury from sabotage or subversive activity. Under these regulations, the COTP may designate security zones in the U.S. jurisdiction, for a period of time he deems necessary to prevent damage or injury. The COTP limits access to a security zone by prohibiting the entry of unauthorized persons, vehicles, or vessels, requiring reduced speed, or setting other restrictions.

b) Regulated Navigation Areas (RNAs): The Port and Tanker Safety Act authorized the Coast Guard to prescribe special regulations to control vessel traffic in areas that are determined to be hazardous due to conditions of reduced visibility, adverse weather or vessel congestion. The regulations in 33 CFR 165, provide for the establishment of regulated navigation areas, which are areas of the navigable waters of the U.S. requiring special procedures to assure the safe navigation of vessels.

c) Safety Zones: The Ports and Waterways Safety Act authorized the Coast Guard to establish regulations to allow the designation of safety zones. These regulations are contained in 33 CFR 165. Safety zones are areas of land, water, or land and water designated by the COTP where access is limited to authorized persons, vehicles, or vessels to protect the public from a hazardous situation. The COTP may designate safety zones in the U.S. and the navigable waters of the U.S., for a period of time he deems necessary to prevent damage or injury to persons, vessels or waterfront facilities. The COTP limits access into a safety zone by prohibiting the entry of unauthorized persons, vehicles, or vessels, requiring reduced speed, or setting other restrictions.

The COTP may establish a security zone, regulated navigation area or safety zone at the request of any person or of his or her own volition.

The statutory authority is 46 U.S. Code 70001, 70011, 70034 and 70051.

2. Purpose of the information collection.

Government agencies, industry or the public may request that the Coast Guard establish a security zone, safety zone or regulated navigation area. This information is collected only as needed. The Coast Guard uses the information to assess the need to establish a security zone, safety zone or regulated navigation area. Similar data is not available elsewhere since the information is unique to each situation and applies to a specific time, duration, place, and operation. If this information is not collected, potential threats or hazards may not be identified. If the Coast Guard is not able to identify the threat or hazard, appropriate action cannot be taken which may result in injury or damage to persons, vessels, ports or waterfront facilities.

3. Consideration of the use of improved information technology.

The information provided by a respondent is in writing, and this can be done via mail or electronic mail as well. We estimate that approximately 66% of all submissions are received electronically.

Regarding Usability Testing, this ICR—

- Public-facing instructions were tested by the staff of the CG Office of Standards Evaluation and Development (CG-REG) to ensure the use of plain language. Usability testing participants reported that they had no difficulty understanding the instructions. As a result, the USCG did not make any changes to the collection.
- Is not related to a public benefit program as detailed in OMB M-22-10 (titled “Improving Access to Public Benefits Programs Through the Paperwork Reduction Act” dated April 13, 2022).
- Is voluntary/option.
- Does not require the use of a form or specify a reporting format/method.
- Is required, for those that elect to submit a request, by regulations per 33 CFR 6 and 165.

4. Efforts to identify duplication.

To date, no State or local programs have been identified that require equivalent information. No other Federal agencies have similar or equivalent regulatory requirements.

5. Methods used to minimize the burdens to small entities 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.

This information is collected only when a security zone, regulated navigation area or safety zone is requested or needed. Less frequent collection would have the same consequences as no collection.

7. Special collection circumstances.

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

8. Consultation.

A 60-day Notice was published in the Federal Register to obtain public comment on this collection (See [USCG-2024-0286]; August 28, 2024, 89 FR 68913) and 30-Day Notice (November 18, 2024, 89 FR 90714were 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.

There is no offer of monetary or material value for this information collection.

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). The links to the MISLE PIA is provided below:

- https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/privacy_pia_uscg_misle.pdf

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

There are no questions of sensitive language.

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

- The estimated annual number of respondents is 388.
- The estimated annual number of responses is 388.
- The estimated annual hour burden is 485 hours.
- The estimated annual cost burden is $37,151.

The burden to respondents is provided in Appendix A. We estimate that for each request, there is 1 hour of management (shore side) time and 0.25 hours of clerical specialist time. For the wage rates, we used the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) wage rate for Administrative Services Managers (11-3012) [May 2023, mean hourly wage, loaded 50%, and rounded][1] and Information and Record Clerks (All Other) (43-4199) [May 2023, mean hourly wage, loaded 50%, and rounded][2] respectively.

13. Estimated annualized capital and start-up costs.

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

14. Estimates of annual Federal Government costs.

The estimated annual Federal Government cost is $343,380 (see Appendix B). We estimate that for each request, it takes 3 hours of Senior Officer (O-5) time and 6 hours of Junior Officer (O-3) time. For the wage rate, we used the current edition of COMDTINST 7310.1(series) for “In-Government” personnel.

15. Reasons for the change in burden.

The change in burden is an ADJUSTMENT due to a change (i.e., decrease) in the estimated annual number of requests for Security Zones, RNAs and Safety Zones. There is no proposed change to the reporting requirements of this collection. The reporting requirements, and the methodology for calculating burden, remains 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. Explain each 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.

[1] https://www.bls.gov/oes/2023/may/oes113012.htm
[2] https://www.bls.gov/oes/2023/may/oes434199.htm