

**Supporting Statement  
for  
Sewage and Graywater Discharge Records for Certain  
Cruise Vessels Operating on Alaskan Waters**

OMB No.: 1625-0092  
COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS: Instruction

**A. Justification**

1. Circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

This information collection is needed to support Federal regulations that cover the discharges of graywater into the Alaskan navigable waterway. These rules<sup>1</sup> are in response to Title XIV of Public Law 106-554 (passed on December 21, 2000), directing the Secretary to develop regulations incorporating an inspection regime into the commercial vessel examination program. This inspection regime verifies that cruise vessels transiting the applicable waters of Alaska are in full compliance with all treated and untreated sewage and graywater discharge laws and regulations. Collection of the information via the certification of participation under Quality Assurance/Quality Plan (QA/QCP), Vessel Specific Sampling Plan (VSSP), the Sewage & Graywater Discharge Record Book, and submission of a statement certifying compliance with the standards are necessary for two important reasons: (1) to determine compliance with the applicable laws and regulations, and (2) to create a historical record to prevent patterns that circumvent or nullify consistent compliance with the law and for the proper application of enforcement provisions of the applicable law and regulations.

Approximately 1,000,000 cruise vessel passengers and crew transited Southeast Alaska waters in the summer of 2001, where a resident population of approximately 60,000 exists. Based on high levels of fecal coliform and total suspended solids found in graywater and treated sewage as a result of the voluntary testing conducted during the 2000 cruise vessel season, the Coast Guard has determined that a sampling and reporting regime is necessary to allow timely detection and corrective action.

In recent years, Alaska has seen cruise vessel passenger visits increase to over 1.6 million passengers a year.<sup>2</sup>

The statutory authority is Title XIV of Public Law 106-554.

2. Purposes of the information collection.

The sampling protocol with a VSSP and QA/QCP describes where samples are drawn on board cruise vessels, how those samples are transported to the lab, how the lab tests and analyzes the samples, the quality review applied to the test results, and how the information will be reported to the Coast Guard. Documentation of sewage and graywater discharges from cruise ships operating within certain waters of Alaska in the form of a Sewage and Graywater Discharge Record Book and reports of sewage and graywater discharge test results creates a reference for Coast Guard personnel to determine compliance with Public Law 106-554 and the regulations promulgated there under.

3. Consideration of the use of improved information technology.

In consideration of efficiencies of information technology, the sampling protocol with a vessel specific sampling plan and certification statements can be manually sent or submitted in an electronic format that is readable by both the Coast Guard and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's information data systems. The Sewage and Graywater Discharge Record Book is typically a manual system that requires various entries and signatures, which will be maintained on board each cruise vessel and available at all times the cruise vessel is operating within the jurisdiction of the United States by the Coast

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<sup>1</sup> Title 33 CFR 159, Subpart E

<sup>2</sup> [History of Cruise Industry in Alaska - CLIA Alaska](#)

Guard. The Sewage and Graywater Discharge Record Book will not be required to be submitted to the Coast Guard, however, the Coast Guard may review and make copies of entries into the record during a visit to the vessel. These records will be generated during the normal course of a shipboard engineering watch and entries made in multiple locations throughout the ships engineering spaces. Original signatures and unalterable, manual record entries are required to ensure authenticity for enforcement purposes.

We estimate that 100% of the reporting and recordkeeping requirements can be done electronically. At this time, we estimate that 50% is done 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).
- Does not require the use of a form or specify a reporting format.
- Is required by international treaty, statute, and/or regulation as noted in section 1 of the Supporting Statement.

#### 4. Efforts to identify duplication.

This requirement is not covered by any other Federal law or regulation. Therefore, this is not a duplicative reporting requirement. However, the state of Alaska also has laws, regulations, and permitting requirements in this area. In some instances, the state accepts Federal records requirements.

#### 5. Methods to minimize the burden to small business if involved.

These regulations are applicable to operators of cruise vessels carrying 500 or more passengers, which are typically owned by corporations that do not qualify as small entities. Therefore, the Coast Guard believes that this information collection does not have an impact on small businesses or other small entities.

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

Less frequent collection could result in an increase in the probability of an illegal discharge not being detected. Discharges create the possibility of the contamination of fish, other marine mammals and wildlife, with an overall negative impact to public health and safety and the ecology.

#### 7. Special collection circumstances.

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

#### 8. Consultation.

On October 10, 2024, the Coast Guard published a 60-day Notice [USCG-2024-0882; 89 FR 82248] and a 30-day Notice [USCG-2024-0882; 90 FR 18987; May 5, 2025] in the *Federal Register* to obtain public comment on this collection. We received two submissions to the 60-day Notice that were supportive of our ICR. One commenter also provided specific notes to sections 1 through 4 of our supporting statement. We addressed those notes by updating the supporting statement. No comments concerned our burden estimate. Accordingly, no changes have been made to the burden estimate of the 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](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 number of annual respondents is 28.
- The estimated number of annual responses is 6,804.
- The estimated hour burden is 555 hours.
- The estimated cost burden is \$39,185.

The burden to respondents is provided in Appendix A. Log entries will be made during the cruise vessels' summer cruise season, typically running from mid-May to mid-September, and only while in the applicable waters of Alaska. The Coast Guard assumes that each vessel will make two log entries per day, on each of the 120 days in the cruising season.

The hourly burden associated with each element of this collection consists of both licensed engineer effort and clerical effort, except in the case of the log entries, requiring no clerical time. The estimated burden for each reflects time for the engineer to review the document for accuracy, and for the clerical staff to duplicate and transmit it. Log entries are made by the licensed engineer and require no clerical effort. For the wage rates, we used the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) wage rate for Ship Engineers (53-5031) [May 2019, mean hourly wage, loaded 50%, and rounded]<sup>3</sup> and Information and Record Clerks (All Other) (43-4199) [May 2023, mean hourly wage, loaded 50%, and rounded].<sup>4</sup>

13. Total annualized capital and start-up costs.

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

14. Estimated of annualized Federal Government costs.

The estimated annual Federal Government cost is \$11,099 (see Appendix B). We estimate that it will take a Lieutenant (LT, O-3) about 15 minutes to review a logbook, 30 minutes to review a Participation or Compliance Certification submission, and 2 hours to review a VSSP submission. Also, we assume three oversight trips are made at an approximate cost of \$1,000 each for Coast Guard members to oversee the sampling effort. 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 the change in burden.

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/oes/2023/may/oes535031.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/oes/2023/may/oes434199.htm>

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.