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The Coast Guard Blog for Maritime Professionals

# 1/16/2018: Coast Guard to start issuing COIs under Subchapter M TSMS option

Posted by LT Amy Midgett, Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Submitted by the [Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance](#) (CG-CVC)

The Coast Guard will begin issuing Certificates of Inspection (COIs) to vessels using the Towing Safety Management System (TSMS) option to comply with [46 CFR Subchapter M](#).

To obtain a COI, the owner or managing operator of the towing vessel should follow the steps outlined in [46 CFR 136.210](#). The local Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) may, as resources permit, issue a COI based upon an onboard inspection or a valid Uninspected Towing Vessel (UTV) decal as provided in [CG-CVC Policy Letter 17-01](#).

The Coast Guard is not yet issuing COIs to vessels choosing the Coast Guard inspection option in Subchapter M. An announcement will be made on Maritime Commons if the Coast Guard is ready to issue COIs before July 20, 2018. In the meantime, vessel owners and managing operators intending to utilize the Coast Guard inspection option may submit [Form CG-3752](#), "Application for Inspection of U.S. Vessel," to the cognizant OCMI and begin to schedule inspections between July 20, 2018 and July 22, 2019. These inspections are for vessels required to receive a COI during year one of the phase-in period as outlined in 46 CFR 136.202. When scheduling an inspection under the Coast Guard option, please be prepared to offer a variety of dates and times the vessel may be available. An OCMI may have greater flexibility to accommodate a desired date if multiple vessels are scheduled for inspection in the same geographic region on the same day.

Owners and managing operators should be aware that it is their responsibility to ensure their towing vessels comply with the provisions in 46 CFR Subchapter M as of July 20, 2018. Towing vessels may continue to operate without a COI after July 20, 2018 until the vessel's phase-in period has passed.

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### Comments