



The United States, as a party to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL73/78), is intent to meet standards of the Convention which call for lessening the amounts of pollution by oily wastes, Noxious Liquid Substances (NLS), and garbage. Through requirements captured in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 158 (33 CFR 158), the United States has established processes which help ensure the proper disposal of wastes from oceangoing ships. To implement the Part 158 requirements, the Waterfront Facility Inspection branch of Sector Houston-Galveston has named over 70 facilities in the Houston area as waste reception facilities. These facilities will either have a Certificate of Adequacy (COA) or an Operations Manual, both required to be approved by the Coast Guard.

Note: This pamphlet is intended to highlight a portion of these requirements, as they apply to port of Houston marine stakeholders. This material is not intended to create new laws or regulations; therefore, users would need to refer to International or domestic law or regulation to resolve unintended conflicts caused by this pamphlet.

By regulation, who must provide reception facilities?

For oily mixtures – any facility which receives oceangoing tankers, or any other oceangoing ship of 400 gross tons or more, carrying residues and mixtures containing oil. See 33 CFR 158.133(a).

For NLS: any facility which receives oceangoing ships carrying NLS. See 33 CFR 158.133(b).

For garbage: any facility receiving vessels, including commercial fishing facilities, mineral and oil shorebases, and recreational boating facilities. See 33 CFR 158.133(c).

What is the function of a Reception Facility?

Reception facilities must be capable of receiving oily waste, NLS, and garbage from OCEAN-GOING vessels within 24 hours of notification from that vessel.

What is an APHIS regulated reception facility?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) requires all victual wastes or garbage contaminated by victual wastes, except from vessels that operate only between the continental United States and Canadian ports, to be incinerated or sterilized in accordance with their regulations in 7 CFR 330.400 and 9 CFR 94.5. United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regulates these facilities and issues permits for their operation.





Is a vessel agent required to use a Reception Facility during a portcall?

There is no requirement that the vessel must offload its waste when visiting a U.S. port. When the vessel does not pose an undue risk to crew or environmental safety, the vessel has the option to retain the waste for disposal elsewhere. The ship also has the option to hire a different company from the one offered by the reception facility. However, the regulations do not compel the facility to authorize the use of its third party reception facilities under such an alternative agreement.

What role does the Coast Guard play in enforcing Reception Facility requirements?

The Coast Guard investigates complaints wherein vessels were denied the ability to remove wastes during a call at a reception facility. As a result of an investigation, the Coast Guard may restrict a facility's ability to receive vessels or inflict fines or incarcerations. See Title 33 of the United State Code Section 1908. These investigations are commonly initiated at the request of a vessel, a facility, or third-party representative concerned about safety (i.e. a representative who identifies waste oil being stored in non-standards tanks aboard a vessel). Reception Facility questions may also arise during regulatory vessel and facility inspections conducted by the Coast Guard.

What are the Coast Guard-approved Reception Facilities throughout the port of Houston?

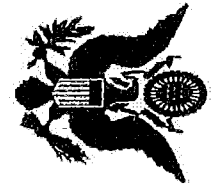
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The USCG maintains a listing of facilities which hold valid COA's by port throughout the United States, it can be accessed via the internet by going to:

<http://cgmix.uscg.mil/MARPOL/Default.aspx>

In addition, a list of the operations contacts at facilities throughout the Port of Houston is enclosed within this brochure. This list will also be posted on Homeport.

<http://homeport.uscg.mil>



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