



U.S. Coast Guard Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands



**Commercial Fishing Vessels:
Resources for Safety Inspections**



U.S. Coast Guard Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands



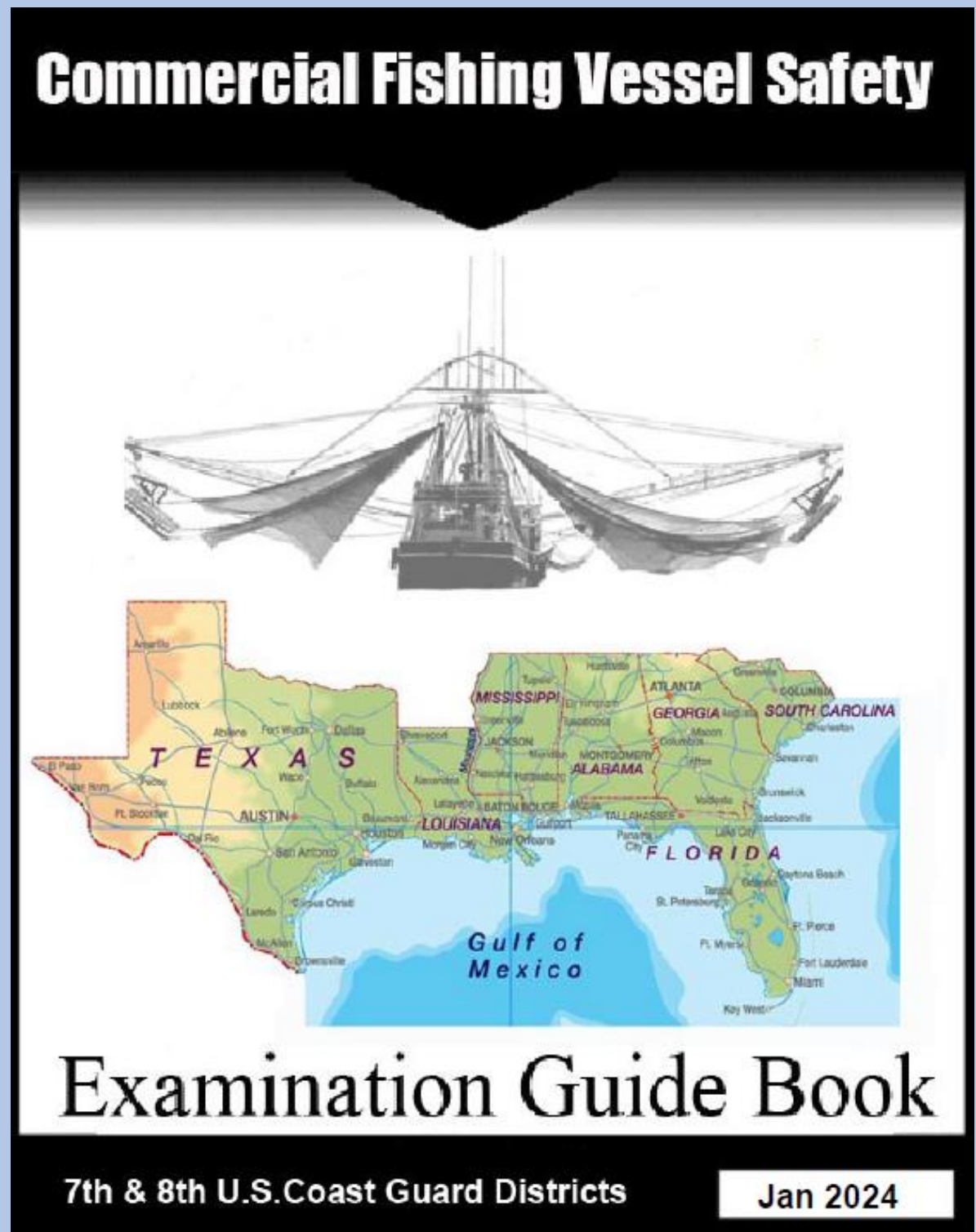
- Federal safety regulations for commercial fishing vessels (CFVs):
 - apply to any vessel that intends to sell their catch.
 - can be enforced by USCG in all U.S. waters.



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- Safety equipment requirements are different depending on:
 - the length of the vessel
 - how many persons are on board
 - where it plans to operate
- The best reference is the CFV Examination Guide Book for Coast Guard District 7:

<https://go.dhs.gov/U6T>





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NAVIGATION RULES

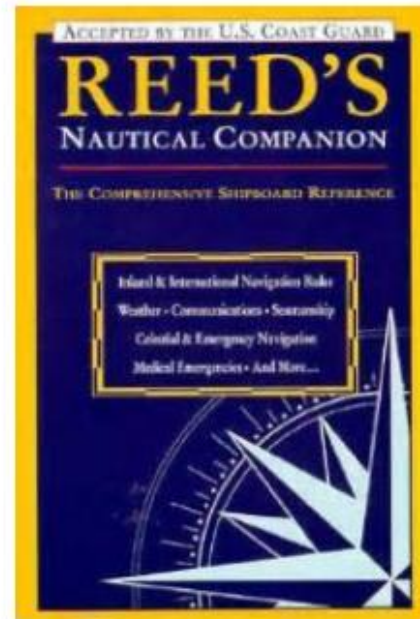
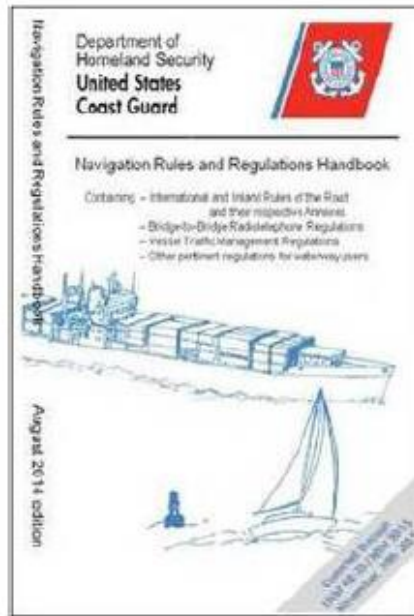
33 CFR 88.05

Applicability:

- All self propelled vessels greater than 12 Meters (39.4 feet) operating on the inland waters of the United States.

Acceptability Requirements:

- Have on board for ready reference a copy of the Inland Navigation Rules book or the Reeds Nautical Companion.



NAVIGATION RULES – AMALGAMATED:

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=NavRulesWithAnnexes>

1. At the homepage click on Printable Version.
2. Print/Download the entire book. Must have printed version on board.

Reeds Nautical Companion

<http://www.reedsnauticalalmanac.co.uk/>

1. Create an account.
2. Print/Download what pertains to your area of operation or print out the entire book.

NOTE:

The Reed's Almanac includes Inland Navigation Rules.
Inland Navigation Rules are located in 33 CFR 83.

RING LIFE BUOYS

46 CFR 28.115

46 CFR 25.25

Type Required:

Vessel Size	Type Required
Vessel under 16 feet (4.9 Meters)	None required
Vessel 16 feet (4.9 Meters) to less than 26 feet (7.9 Meters).	One-buoyant cushion (USCG Approved Type IV PFD) or a 20 inch ring life buoy (or larger) with 60 feet of line.
Vessel 26 feet (7.9 Meters) to less than 65 feet (18 Meters)	One-ring life buoy approval number starting with 160.009 or 160.050; orange in color; at least 24 inch in diameter (0.61 meter) in size. With 60 feet of line attached to body.
Vessel 65 feet (18 Meters) or more	Three-ring buoys, with approval number 160.050; orange in color; at least 24 inch in diameter (0.61 meter) in size. One ring having 90 feet of line attached to body.



NOTE:

All life buoys must be marked with the vessel's name in BLOCK letters.

Each device stowed should be immediately available.

Commercial Life Sling may be substituted for one ring life buoy if:

- Vessel has a 10 ft high (above the deck) lifting point; and
- 150 ft of line attached.
- Only life sling model III are currently approved USCG approval. (160.050)



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- Another useful tool is the “Checklist Generator” to confirm what safety equipment is required for a particular vessel.
- This is based on a given vessel’s size, type, and operating area.

www.dco.uscg.mil/fishsafe

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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Fishing Vessel Safety Division (CG-CVC-3)

Resources

- [Checklist Generator](#)
- [Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations](#)



U.S. Coast Guard Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands

Example Checklist Generator output

Please answer the following questions

Enter the length of your vessel in feet (Example 35.4):

Enter the maximum number of crew you will have on board:

Oceans out to 3nm from shore (or internal waters that open to the oce) ▾

Fishing Vessel (never engages in tendering) ▾

Start Over

Next

Life Saving Equipment

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One Type I, Type II, Type III, Type V personal floatation device or immersion or exposure suit for each person on board | Info |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Personal floatation device light (approval 161.012) attached to each PFD, immersion or exposure suit | Info |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No survival craft required | Info |

Fire Fighting Equipment

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One 5-B fire extinguisher required | Info |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|

Engine Room and Remaining Vessel Areas

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | State issued numbers on port and starboard bow (minimum 3 inch) | Info |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A Boarding Ladder may be required (Click info button for more information) | Info |

The above checklists were created using the criteria listed in the below table.

Vessel criteria	Your input
Type of vessel:	Fishing Vessel
Length of vessel:	15
Number of people on board:	1



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- Periodic dockside exams are mandatory for:
 - fishing vessels that operate more than 3nm from the territorial sea baseline,
 - vessels operated by holders of certain Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permits

DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT
Fish Processor	COC (2 year)
Fish Processor (ACSA)	Decal (2 year)
Fish Tender (Aleutian Trade Act)	COC (2 year)
Fisheries Observer Coverage Vessel*	Decal (2 year)
D13 Exemption Letter Condition	Decal (2 year)
At-Risk Vessel (Fishing Vessel or Fish Tender) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operates >3nm from territorial sea baseline, • 50 ft & greater, • built prior to July 1, 2013, and • >25 years of age. 	Decal (2 year)
Fishing Vessel or Fish Tender operating >3nm from territorial sea baseline or anywhere with more than 16 POB.	Exam (5 year)
All others	Voluntary

*As required by fisheries regulations

**Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety
EXAMINATION**

VESSEL		EXPIRES												
<input type="checkbox"/> Documented		2009 <input type="checkbox"/>												
<input type="checkbox"/> Undocumented		2010 <input type="checkbox"/>												
OPERATIONS		2011 <input type="checkbox"/>												
<input type="checkbox"/> Cold Waters		2012 <input type="checkbox"/>												
<input type="checkbox"/> Warm Waters														
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Boundary Line		<table border="1" style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>JAN</td><td>JUL</td></tr> <tr><td>FEB</td><td>AUG</td></tr> <tr><td>MAR</td><td>SEP</td></tr> <tr><td>APR</td><td>OCT</td></tr> <tr><td>MAY</td><td>NOV</td></tr> <tr><td>JUN</td><td>DEC</td></tr> </table>	JAN	JUL	FEB	AUG	MAR	SEP	APR	OCT	MAY	NOV	JUN	DEC
JAN	JUL													
FEB	AUG													
MAR	SEP													
APR	OCT													
MAY	NOV													
JUN	DEC													
<input type="checkbox"/> Beyond Boundary Line														
FROM COASTLINE	THIS VESSEL MEETS ALL USCG COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY VESSEL REGULATIONS FOR OPERATING AREAS AS MARKED													
<input type="checkbox"/> < 3 NM														
<input type="checkbox"/> < 12 NM														
<input type="checkbox"/> < 20 NM														
<input type="checkbox"/> < 50 NM														
<input type="checkbox"/> > 50 NM														
<input type="checkbox"/> > 100 NM														
	NO.	CG-5587A (Rev. 6/02)												
U.S. Department of Homeland Security														



U.S. Coast Guard Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands

Point of contact for CFV Safety Inspections:

USCG Sector San Juan
Prevention Department – Domestics
(787) 629-8156
ssjdomestics@uscg.mil

Questions/comments?