



16790 / AUX-PL-008(A)  
BSX Policy Letter 21-02  
25 Jun 2021

From: S. L. JOHNSON, CAPT /s/  
COMDT (CG-BSX)

To: Distribution

Subj: UPDATE TO AUXILIARY OPERATIONS POLICY MANUAL: AUXILIARY  
NAVIGATION STANDARDS

Ref:

- (a) Coast Guard Navigation Standards Manual, COMDTINST M3530.2 (series)
- (b) U.S. Coast Guard Boat Operations and Training Manual Volume I, COMDTINST M16114.32 (series)
- (c) Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series)

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this policy letter is to update the Order Issuing Authority (OIA) and Facility Operators responsibilities regarding Navigation Standards requirements for Auxiliary surface operations.

2. ACTION. All OIAs and facility operators must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter.

3. BACKGROUND. All Commanding Officers and Officers in Charge of Coast Guard units with small boats attached must promulgate Command Navigation Standards in accordance with references (a) and (b). Command Navigation Standards provide boat operators with information vital to the safe navigation of Coast Guard surface assets. Auxiliary facility operators operate in the OIA's area of responsibility and are considered Coast Guard assets when operating under orders. Recent Auxiliary mishaps have highlighted the need to include Auxiliary facilities and operators in unit Navigation Standards. OIAs must provide navigation standards guidance which is critical to reduce risk associated with operating Auxiliary facilities in the full spectrum of conditions that may be encountered.

4. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. These changes will be incorporated into the next revision of reference (c).

5. DISCLAIMER. This Policy Letter is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it a rule. It is intended to define requirements for Auxiliary personnel and is not intended to, nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary.

6. REQUIREMENTS.

- a. OIAs must publish Auxiliary Navigation Standards that include at least the following factors: Speed Expectations, Known Hazardous Areas, and Areas requiring extra caution. OIAs may include in their Auxiliary Navigation Standards, additional guidance or requirements from their existing Command Navigation Standards. OIAs are encouraged to use the applicable sections of the local unit Command Navigation Standards and may incorporate the Auxiliary sections into their existing Navigation Standards.
- b. Auxiliary Facility Operators must read, understand and operate their facilities in accordance with the OIA's Auxiliary Navigation Standards.

7. QUESTIONS. Questions concerning this policy letter should be directed to the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division COMDT (CG-BSX-1) at [CGAUX@uscg.mil](mailto:CGAUX@uscg.mil). This policy letter and other policy documents are posted on the CG Auxiliary website at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=risk-mgt>

8. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Units and individuals may recommend changes in writing via the chain of command to Commandant (CG-BSX-1), ATTN: Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1), U. S. Coast Guard Stop 7501, 2703 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVE SE, WASHINGTON DC 20593-7501.

9. Internet release is authorized.

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