



16790 / AUX-PL-005(A)  
BSX Policy Letter 19-05  
July 18, 2019

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

To: All DIRAUX (dpa)  
All Auxiliary (AL AUX)

Subj: CELL PHONE USE ONBOARD AUXILIARY FACILITIES

Ref: (a) U.S. Coast Guard Boat Operations and Training Manual Volume I, COMDTINST  
M16114.32D  
(b) Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3E

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this policy letter is to provide guidance on the use of cellular phones, phone applications, and handheld devices while underway on Auxiliary surface facilities under orders.
2. ACTION. All Auxiliarists must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter. Internet release is authorized
3. BACKGROUND. Reference (a), chapter 3, section F.2 states the use of cell phones/texting devices and phone applications aboard Boat Force assets is prohibited without permission of the Coxswain; permission can be granted only on a case by case basis. This policy was incorporated into the annual Auxiliary Operations Workshop presentations but was never incorporated into Auxiliary directives.
4. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. These changes will be incorporated into the next revision of reference (b).
5. MAJOR CHANGES. Major changes to the communication policy specifically the use of cell phones/texting devices and phone applications:
  - a. Auxiliary Patrols. A facility must have two-way communications with any Coast Guard unit; any Auxiliary Station or Detachments; any federal, state, or local agency (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers, police, fire department, etc.); or any local marina that agrees to maintain the scheduled communication guard, relay official information between the Coast Guard and Auxiliary facility. Local marinas must understand and agree to immediately report a loss of communications with the Auxiliary Patrol to the Coast Guard when the reporting period is exceeded.

- b. VHF-FM is the primary method for communications during ordered patrols. The use of mobile phones and phone applications aboard Auxiliary Surface Facilities (vessels) is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Coxswain and only on a case by case basis. The Coxswain should take into consideration a variety of factors using risk management principles before allowing the use of mobile phones. When a crew member is allowed to use a mobile phone, the Coxswain will assure that there is a proper lookout posted and the rest of the crew are attentive to their duties. The helmsman is prohibited from using a mobile phone.**
6. 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.
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.

#