



2000  
11 Aug 2011

## MEMORANDUM

Eighth Coast Guard District Coastal Region, Auxiliary Policy Directive OPS-11-01

Subj: UNDERWAY RADIO CALL SIGNS

Ref: Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual, COMDTINST M16794.54A

1. **PURPOSE.** To provide standardized radio call signs for Auxiliary operational facilities while operating under assignment to duty in District Eight Coastal Region (D8CR).
2. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** None.
3. **DISCUSSION.** Most Auxiliary operational facilities operating in D8CR are recreational vessel owned by Auxiliarists. Naturally these vessels, when not assigned to duty are used by their owners for leisure purposes. Many owners have selected names for their vessels that have important personal meanings for the owner and use their vessel names as radio call signs. However, in order to establish a more professional identity and mirror Coast Guard surface assets, Auxiliary facilities are no longer authorized to identify themselves or hail other Auxiliary surface facilities by the vessel's name when communicating over VHF-FM radio frequencies while assigned to duty.
4. **ACTION.**
  - a. While an Auxiliary facility is assigned to duty it shall identify itself and other Auxiliary surface units in a like manner as its active duty counterparts.
    1. The original transmission of an Auxiliary surface facility's call sign shall consist of the words, "Coast Guard Auxiliary," followed by the length of the vessel. After the length of the vessel the numbers within the vessel's state registration number shall conclude the call sign. For the 26 foot facility bearing the state registration number MI 3998 NK, the initial call sign would be "Coast Guard Auxiliary 263998."
    2. Auxiliary facilities that are documented vessels, vice state registered, their call sign shall be comprised of the last four numbers of their official number. Therefore a 32 foot facility with the official number of 1069853 would have the call sign of "Coast Guard Auxiliary 329853."
    3. After clear communications have been established by the Auxiliary facility, the facility may abbreviate their call sign to "Auxiliary" followed by the state registration number or the last four digits of the vessels official number in subsequent radio combinations. Accepted examples are "Auxiliary 3998" and "Auxiliary 3998."
  - b. Auxiliary aviation units shall use their tail numbers in a like manner as surface facilities when using radio call signs on VHF-FM or UHF-FM frequencies. Upon assignment to an active Search and Rescue case by an Orders Issuing Authority, aviation facilities may use the word "Rescue" in lieu of "Coast Guard Auxiliary" and/or "Auxiliary."

5. **NON-COMPLIANCE:** Unwillingness to comply with this directive by a facility's owner and/or assigned coxswains or pilot may result in the facility's Offer for Use being rescinded.



R. F. HELLSTERN  
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard  
Director of Auxiliary  
Eighth Coastal District, Coastal Region