

For CG-82 use only	Requestor: House Labor & Education Hearing Prep	DHS review required?
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REGULATIONS GOVERNING OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF ACTIVITIES

QUESTION: What changes, if any, are needed in the current inspections and regulations?

ANSWER: Compliance activities (Inspections)

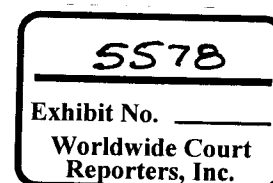
The Coast Guard (CG) Marine Safety Program systematically conducts examinations of U.S. and foreign vessels, marine facilities, and reviews plans for vessel construction, alteration, equipment, and salvage to ensure safety and environmental protection standards are being met. These inspections are comprehensive in nature, and often encompass machinery, electrical, piping, industrial, navigation, and pollution prevention systems. In a typical year, the Coast Guard Marine Safety program conducts more than 70,000 domestic vessel inspections, 10,000 port state control examinations, and performs reviews for more than 15,000 vessel plans for technical compliance. Additionally, the CG conducts annually 7,500 examinations and 7,000 boardings, either dockside or underway of uninspected commercial vessels including fishing, towing, and passenger vessel.

To ensure the Marine Safety Program has the proper resources required to perform our regulatory oversight missions and to correct historical deficiencies in personnel resources as identified in the Coast Guard Marine Safety Analysis, an Independent Assessment and Suggestions for Improvement report completed by retired Coast Guard Admiral Card, the CG has been in the process of hiring up to 350 marine inspection and investigation personnel. Additionally, the CG has established National Centers of Expertise in functional specialties (e.g. Towing Vessels, Outer Continental Shelf, Chemical Carriers, Marine Investigations, etc) located in various regions of the country. Three of these are located in the Gulf of Mexico region: the Investigations NCOE in New Orleans, NOCE for Offshore Operations in Morgan City, and NCOE for Liquid Natural Gas in Port Arthur.

Under our current regulatory inspection schemes, the CG inspects/examines both U.S. and foreign vessels. While the CG, as a U.S. vessels Flag Administration, does spend significantly more time in manhours on the U.S. flag vessels, this does not necessarily equate to a safer unit. Foreign vessels are also inspected by their Flag Administration and the CG, as the Port State, board these foreign flag vessel's to perform port state verifications to ensure the vessels are operating according to the terms and conditions of their internationally issued certificates. For either the US flag or foreign flag vessels, if an inspector has a concern during an inspection, the inspector can expand the examination to fully investigate other concerns. Our current level of manning affords the CG to use this scheme and get satisfactory results for foreign and domestic vessels.

Regulations:

The Coast Guard recognizes the current regulations governing the CG's jurisdictional responsibilities for units operating on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and the personnel working on these units are outdated. Originally published in 1982, the regulations in 33 CFR chapter I, subchapter N, have not kept pace with the advances in offshore technology nor the potential risks to workplace safety problems created as OCS activities extended to even deeper waters (10,000 feet) and move farther offshore (150 miles). Recognizing this, the CG initiated a project to update our regulations to reflect the most current



industry "best practices," to incorporate lessons learned from past experiences and to incorporate input received the National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (a federal advisory committee under FACA) to improve the level of safety in the workplace for personnel and units engaged in OCS activities.

Under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) the CG is the lead Federal agency for OCS workplace safety and health. Minerals Management Service (MMS) is responsible for the drilling and production regulated on facilities and vessels engaged in the exploration for, or development or production of, minerals on the OCS.

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CG-821 Program Reviewer	Insert Name & Number, CG-821

NOTES/REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Place information below that you wish all levels of review to be aware of.
HOWEVER, Information from this point on will not be provided to the Witness.

Directorate/Program Notes:**CG-82 Notes (why changes were made to question):****CLEARANCE SHEET** (click to annotate clearance)**Referenced materials**

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	Link
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