

Circular From GARD

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US marine casualty reporting

The US Coast Guard has amended its CG-2692 forms in an effort to ease the burden of reporting in connection with marine casualties.

On 1 July 2016, the US Coast Guard (USCG) released a new Form CG-2692 for use in connection with marine casualty reporting. The new version of the form, which is the result of an initiative to overhaul the previous form and to decrease the burden of completing it, contains several changes, including the following:

- revised addendum forms for barge involvement, personnel casualties, witnesses and chemical testing;
- streamlined data fields to align with US statutory and regulatory language; and
- the form can now be completed and submitted in electronic form, alleviating the need to print, sign, and subsequently fax the completed form to the Coast Guard.

Assistance in completing the forms is also available through a video "[Coast Guard 2692 form introduction](#)" (YouTube).

Members and clients with vessels operating in US waters should ensure that their fleets have available the most recent versions of the US marine casualty report forms and commence *using these immediately*. It is also important to ensure that crews and operational personnel are well aware of the requirement to immediately notify the USCG of any hazardous conditions or casualties onboard, as failure to report a vessel's hazardous condition could be considered a criminal act, see Gard Insight "[US law - Crew's failure to report hazardous condition aboard vessel](#)" of 1 May 2011.

When to use a marine casualty report form

With few exceptions, commercial vessel operators are required to report a casualty immediately if it occurs upon the navigable waters of the US. The criteria for what constitutes a reportable incident are set out in 46 CFR 4.05-1. Groundings, bridge strikes, losses resulting in reduced vessel manoeuvrability, impacts on vessel seaworthiness or fitness for service or route, loss of life, injury requiring professional medical treatment, property damage in excess of USD 25,000, or significant harm to the environment, are all examples of casualties that should be reported. (The electronic Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) can be accessed using the link: www.ecfr.gov.)

A phone call or fax to the USCG typically satisfies the immediate initial notice requirement; but a formal report of the incident, in the form of CG-2692 must also be filed within five days. If the a marine casualty can be defined as a serious marine incident in accordance with 46 CFR 4.03-2 (one or more deaths, discharge of oil of 10,000 gallons or more, damage to property in excess of USD 100,000 are common examples), the report must also be supplemented by CG-2692B (report of mandatory chemical testing). In

many instances it may be useful to obtain advice from the local correspondent or Gard (North America) before submitting anything in writing to the USCG.

Source of Information: Gard P&I Club

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