



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

February 5, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy Van Atten
Branch Chief, FSB 

SUBJECT: Pre Trip Vessel Safety Checklist (PTVSC)
Version: 02/01/10

One modification has been made to the current version of the PTVSC for scanning purposes. There is now only one set of boxes to record the EPIRB Visual Inspection Card (EVIC) number and date issued on the back of the PTVSC version 02/01/10. You will fill in these boxes if you issue an EVIC or if you use an EVIC that has already been issued by another observer and is still valid within the 90 day time period. You MUST check the box associated with the method you used to verify the battery and hydrostatic release dates on the EPIRB. If you visually inspect an EPIRB you should also be issuing an EVIC card. If you do not, you must provide comments. Comments are mandatory if you use USCG documentation to verify the expiration dates. Comments are also mandatory if you cannot obtain an expiration date for the USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal, the life raft or the EPIRB.

Begin using the PTVSC version 02/01/10 upon receipt of this memo. AIS observers should contact Jack Harrington at (774-200-1502 cell) and EWTS observers should contact Corrin Flora (508-495-2188), or print the form directly from NEFSC Fisheries Sampling Branch website (<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/>).

In the last memo regarding the PTVSC, there was a picture of the NOAA EPIRB registration sticker (Figure 1). This sticker indicates that the EPIRB is registered with NOAA and the associated vessel. The expiration date listed on this sticker should NOT be used for the battery or hydrostatic release date of the EPIRB.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mike Tork at 508-495-2339, Mike.Tork@noaa.gov or Lauren Marcinkiewicz at 508-495-2212, Lauren.Marcinkiewicz@noaa.gov.

Thank you.

Attachment: Pre Trip Vessel Safety Checklist (PTVSC), Version: 02/01/10

NEFOP Memo 10-002 (Page 1 of 2)



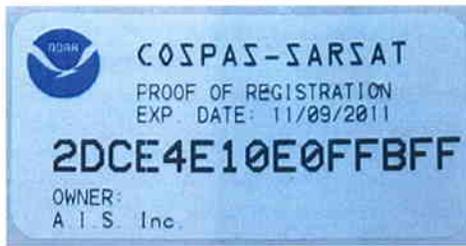


Figure 1. NOAA EPIRB registration sticker. **DO NOT use this date for the EPIRB battery or hydrostatic release expiration date.**



*The following is a list of examples that you should/could check while doing a vessel walk through. They are listed here to assist you in determining the relative safety of a particular vessel. The list is not comprehensive, but one that is intended to start you thinking.

- Does the vessel seem well maintained? Is it neat, clean and being maintained by a careful and prepared crew?
- Any visible hydraulic leaks?
- Is the vessel being used for the purpose it was originally designed? Have significant changes been made?
- Do obvious hazards exist? Note potentially hazardous areas/conditions. ALWAYS USE CAUTION AROUND WINCHES.
- Identify water tight doors. Can they be secured in case of severe weather or emergencies?
- Are the hatches or passageways blocked or difficult to get to?
- Does the deck gear appear to be in good working condition? Identify unsafe areas. Note overhead wires or rusted/worn shackles or blocks.
- Is the vessel long overdue for a haul out (excessive growth at waterline or hull paint in poor condition)?
- How often is the bilge pump going on?
- How is the fish hold covered? Is hatch readily available and in good condition? Are there other openings in the deck and are good hatches in place or readily available?
- Would anything prevent you from abandoning ship from the living quarters?
- What are the escape routes from every part of the vessel you might find yourself?
- Visualize egress for all possible scenarios (fire, flooding, capsized, dark, etc.) and mentally note landmarks.
- What are the most combustible items on board and where are they stored?
- Are there any exposed exhaust pipes/manifolds that might pose burn hazards?
- Is there heavy equipment on deck that is not latched down?
- Are there any exposed drive chains, pulleys or belts?
- Would you be able to access the life raft if conditions were icy or the wheelhouse was on fire?
- Wood hulls: Rust stains between planks?(may indicate weak fasteners). Protruding planks or inconsistencies in the hull? (may indicate broken frame/fasteners). Wood rot present? (if yes, likely to be worse in unseen areas).
- Are there safety issues involved with boarding?
- Is the number and size of the scuppers sufficient to be effective? Do they become plugged during fishing practices?
- Is there a station bill posted and is your role clear during all shipboard emergencies?
- Are there emergency instructions, or did the captain (or designee) give safety orientation, explaining the following: survival craft embarkation stations; survival craft assignments; fire/emergency/ abandon ship signals; procedures for rough weather; procedures for recovering man overboard; procedures for fighting fire; essential actions required of each person in an emergency?

***Required to conduct at least 1 of the following: 1) orientation, 2) safety instructions or 3) safety drills.**

*The following are examples of things to consider related to the vessel design or fishing practices in determining general concerns with vessel stability.

- Note the roll period of the vessel. Generally a boat with a quick, snappy roll is more stable than a boat that has a slow or sluggish roll period. A boat that seems to hesitate on its side, before righting, could be unstable.
- Does the vessel list excessively?
- Do the fishing practices involve a pattern of towing heavy bags or dumping the catch to one side of the vessel?

Comments

Stability

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHECKED YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT?

Please check the method you used to verify the EPIRB hydrostatic release and battery expiration dates:

- Visual inspection; record card number and date issued below
- EPIRB Visual Inspection Card (EVIC); record card number and date issued below
- Approved USCG documentation (comments required)

EVIC card number Date issued (MM/YY)

Observer signature _____

Date _____