

PART 26—VESSEL BRIDGE-TO-BRIDGE RADIOTELEPHONE REGULATIONS

- Sec.
 26.01 Purpose.
 26.02 Definitions.
 26.03 Radiotelephone required.
 26.04 Use of the designated frequency.
 26.05 Use of radiotelephone.
 26.06 Maintenance of radiotelephone; failure of radiotelephone.
 26.07 Communications.
 26.08 Exemption procedures.
 26.09 List of exemptions.

AUTHORITY: 14 U.S.C. 2, 33 U.S.C. 1201-1208; Pub. L. 107-295, 116 Stat. 2064; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170. Rule 1, International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea.

SOURCE: CGD 71-114R, 37 FR 12720, June 28, 1972, unless otherwise noted.

§ 26.01 Purpose.

(a) The purpose of this part is to implement the provisions of the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act. This part:

- (1) Requires the use of the vessel bridge-to-bridge radiotelephone;
 - (2) Provides the Coast Guard's interpretation of the meaning of important terms in the Act;
 - (3) Prescribes the procedures for applying for an exemption from the Act and the regulations issued under the Act and a listing of exemptions.
- (b) Nothing in this part relieves any person from the obligation of complying with the rules of the road and the applicable pilot rules.

§ 26.02 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part and interpreting the Act:

Act means the "Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act", 33 U.S.C. sections 1201-1208;

Length is measured from end to end over the deck excluding sheer;

Power-driven vessel means any vessel propelled by machinery; and

Secretary means the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating;

Territorial sea means all waters as defined in § 2.22(a)(1) of this chapter.

Towing vessel means any commercial vessel engaged in towing another vessel astern, alongside, or by pushing ahead.

Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) means a service implemented under Part 161 of this chapter by the United States Coast Guard designed to improve the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to protect the environment. The VTS has the capability to interact with marine traffic and respond to traffic situations developing in the VTS area.

Vessel Traffic Service Area or VTS Area means the geographical area encompassing a specific VTS area of service as described in Part 161 of this chapter. This area of service may be subdivided into sectors for the purpose of allocating responsibility to individual Vessel Traffic Centers or to identify different operating requirements.

NOTE: Although regulatory jurisdiction is limited to the navigable waters of the United States, certain vessels will be encouraged or may be required, as a condition of port entry, to report beyond this area to facilitate traffic management within the VTS area.

(Rule 1, International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (as rectified); EO 11964 (14 U.S.C. 2); 49 CFR 1.46(b))

[CGD 71-114R, 37 FR 12720, June 28, 1972, as amended by CGD 77-118a, 42 FR 35784, July 11, 1977; CGD 90-020, 59 FR 36322, July 15, 1994; USCG-2001-9044, 68 FR 42601, July 18, 2003]

§ 26.03 Radiotelephone required.

(a) Unless an exemption is granted under § 26.09 and except as provided in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, this part applies to:

- (1) Every power-driven vessel of 20 meters or over in length while navigating;
- (2) Every vessel of 100 gross tons and upward carrying one or more passengers for hire while navigating;
- (3) Every towing vessel of 26 feet or over in length while navigating; and
- (4) Every dredge and floating plant engaged in or near a channel or fairway in operations likely to restrict or affect navigation of other vessels except for an unmanned or intermittently manned floating plant under the control of a dredge.

(b) Every vessel, dredge, or floating plant described in paragraph (a) of this section must have a radiotelephone on board capable of operation from its navigational bridge, or in the case of a