§ 156.225 Designation of lightering zones.

The District Commander is delegated the authority to designate lightering zones and their operating requirements, where they are necessary for safety or environmental protection. When a lightering zone has been designated, lightering operations in a given geographic area may only be conducted within the designated lightering zone.

§ 156.230 Factors considered in designating lightering zones.

The following factors are considered in designating a lightering zone:

(a) The findings of the environmental analysis or, if prepared, the Environmental Impact Statement;
(b) The proximity of the zone to:
   (1) Shipping lanes;
   (2) Vessel traffic schemes or vessel separation systems;
   (3) Anchorages;
   (4) Fixed structures;
   (5) Designated marine sanctuaries;
   (6) Commercial and recreational fishing areas;
   (7) Environmentally sensitive areas; and
(c) The traditional use of areas for lightering operations;
(d) The normal weather and sea conditions in the areas, and their effect on lightering operations, and the fate of possible cargo discharges;
(e) The depth of water and underwater obstructions that may adversely impact anchorages and clearance of vessels;
(f) Other relevant safety, environmental, or economic data.

Subpart C—Lightering Zones and Operational Requirements for the Gulf of Mexico

§ 156.300 Designated lightering zones.

The following lightering zones are designated in the Gulf of Mexico and are more than 60 miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured:

(a) *Southtex—lightering zone.* This lightering zone and the geographic area for this zone are coterminous and consist of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

Latitude N. | Longitude W.
--- | ---
27°40′00″ | 90°00′00″, thence to
27°40′00″ | 93°00′00″, thence to
28°06′30″ | 94°35′00″, thence to
27°23′00″ | 94°35′00″, thence to
26°30′00″ | 96°00′00″, thence to
26°30′00″ | 96°00′00″, thence to
93°00′00″, and thence to the point of beginning.

(NAD 83)

(b) *Gulfmex No. 2—lightering zone.* This lightering zone and the geographic area for this zone are coterminous and consist of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

Latitude N. | Longitude W.
--- | ---
27°53′00″ | 88°00′00″, thence to
27°53′00″ | 91°30′00″, thence to
26°30′00″ | 91°30′00″, thence to
26°30′00″ | 89°08′00″, and thence to the point of beginning.

(NAD 83)

(c) *Offshore Pascagoula No. 2—lightering zone.* This lightering zone and the geographic area for this zone are coterminous and consist of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

Latitude N. | Longitude W.
--- | ---
29°20′00″ | 87°00′00″, thence to
29°12′00″ | 87°45′00″, thence to
28°39′00″ | 88°00′00″, thence to
28°00′00″ | 88°00′00″, thence to
28°00′00″, and thence to the point of beginning.

500
(NAD 83)
(d) South Sabine Point—lightering zone.
This lightering zone and the geographic area for this zone are coterminal and consist of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude N.</th>
<th>Longitude W.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28°30′00″</td>
<td>92°38′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°44′00″</td>
<td>93°24′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°53′00″</td>
<td>94°00′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°18′00″</td>
<td>94°06′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°18′00″</td>
<td>92°38′00″, and thence to the point of beginning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(NAD 83)

§ 156.310 Prohibited areas.

Lightering operations are prohibited within the following areas in the Gulf of Mexico:

(a) Claypile—prohibited area. This prohibited area consists of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude N.</th>
<th>Longitude W.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28°15′00″</td>
<td>94°35′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27°40′00″</td>
<td>94°35′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27°40′00″</td>
<td>94°00′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°33′00″</td>
<td>94°00′00″, and thence to the point of beginning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(NAD 83)

(b) Flower Garden—prohibited area. This prohibited area consists of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude N.</th>
<th>Longitude W.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27°40′00″</td>
<td>94°00′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°18′00″</td>
<td>94°00′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°18′00″</td>
<td>92°38′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°15′00″</td>
<td>91°30′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27°40′00″</td>
<td>91°30′00″, and thence to the point of beginning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(NAD 83)

(c) Ewing—prohibited area. This prohibited area consists of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude N.</th>
<th>Longitude W.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27°53′00″</td>
<td>91°30′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°15′00″</td>
<td>91°30′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28°15′00″</td>
<td>90°10′00″, thence to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§ 156.330 Operations.

(a) Unless otherwise specified, the maximum operating conditions in this section apply to tank vessels operating within the lightering zones designated in this subpart.

(b) Cargo transfer operations shall cease and transfer hoses shall be drained when:

(1) The wind velocity exceeds 82 km/hr (44 knots); or
(2) Wave heights exceed 5 meters (16 feet).

§ 156.330 Operations.

(a) Unless otherwise specified in this subpart, or when otherwise authorized by the cognizant Captain of the Port (COTP) or District Commander, the master of a vessel lightering in a zone designated in this subpart shall ensure that all officers and appropriate members of the crew are familiar with the guidelines in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section and that the requirements of paragraphs (d) through (l) of this section are complied with.

(b) Lightering operations should be conducted in accordance with the Oil Companies International Marine Forum Ship to Ship Transfer Guide (Petroleum), Second Edition, 1988, to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) Helicopter operations should be conducted in accordance with the International Chamber of Shipping Guide to Helicopter-Ship Operations, Third Edition, 1989, to the maximum extent practicable.

(d) The vessel to be lightered shall make a voice warning prior to the commencement of lightering activities via channel 13 VHF and 2182 Khz. The voice warning shall include:

(1) The names of the vessels involved;