



# The Marine Assistance Industry Journal

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## **NEWS AND BULLETINS IN REVIEW:**

**May 31, 2011** – Vessel Inspections are on the horizon. Some of you have received notices from your Sectors suggesting your vessels be inspected. The regulation has not yet been approved. As a matter of fact, the regulation has not made the NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) stage. That being said, we know it is going to be there soon and our vessels will be liable for inspection at some point in the future. Why are some of us getting these letters now?

Some background. The Coast Guard instituted a voluntary program called "Towing Vessel Bridging Program (TVBP) - Vessel Inspections". The goal of the program was to have as many companies volunteer to go through the inspection process as possible prior to implementation so the CG could work with industry to design the best possible program they could within the restraints imposed by legislation. Assistance towing vessels are not excluded from TVBP, they are just not the focus. At this point, the Coast Guard wants to gather some information about our population of vessels. They believe, and we agree, that examinations facilitate this effort. In their own words, "although assistance towing vessels are not the focus, part of the reason to exam such vessels now is to accurately ascertain the population of this subset. As they are uninspected vessels, we just don't have a good handle the size of the assistance towing community".

Currently, the Bridging Program is about compliance with existing regulations and since our vessels are uninspected vessels at this point, there should be little concern of any repercussions. In addition, it is important for Coast Guard examiners to become more acquainted with our vessels and understand what it is they do. This will not only benefit us when it comes time to be inspected but also now as our Coast Guard partners will know our equipment capabilities should the need arise. We want to cooperate with this program as we see the benefits to us in the long run. Successfully completing the examination during this Phase I will exempt you from additional examination for 3 years.

**May 30, 2011** – In response to many of your comments, C-PORT has been working to create a better working relationship with Travelers Insurance Claims Department. As many of you know, Travelers-Ocean Marine, underwrites the C-PORT group policy that insures our members. Our relationship and coverage options on that side of the table are strong and remain so. There was a weakness detected with the recreational boat claims handling side and we went to work to try to improve that relationship.

At the end of April, a number of us met in New York with the upper management team of Travelers recreational boat claims division. Attending and representing C-PORT were Tina Cardone, John Andrews and Larry Acheson. Additional committee members included Chris Shaffner and Terry Hill. I am pleased to report the meeting was very successful and we are well on our way to building a stronger relationship and creating a lasting partnership with Travelers Claims.

**May 4, 2011** - C-PORT announces a new program for our members. It is the C-PORT Sector Representative Program. We believe it will be beneficial to all parties and will help to strengthen our relationship with the USCG and with the local agencies that attend mandated Sector meetings. Found within the USCG document commonly referred to as the SAR (Search and Rescue) Addendum, is a section that details the requirement for bi-annual meetings and the need for CG to remain familiar with the SAR Assistance resources in their AOR. Marine Assistance Operators are urged to attend these meetings and to make sure their local stations and Groups have current, accurate information about their equipment and personnel. In many areas of the country, these meetings are working well. In others, there is need for improvement in communication and meeting content. C-PORT has developed this program to help all areas have consistent, productive Sector meetings. There is a comprehensive Sector Meetings Guidelines document as well as a Helpful Hints document available to members at our website, <http://www.cport.us/>.

**April 27, 2011 - SAVE THE DATE!** 2012 C-PORT 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held January 8 - January 9, 2012 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, Tampa, FL! Don't miss this special **25th Anniversary Conference** celebrating the growth and development of the Marine Assistance Industry! Something for everyone from informative presentations and discussion panels, networking, exhibits and more! More information is coming soon.



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C-PORT was founded in 1985 to act as a liaison between the marine assistance industry and public agencies and organizations involved with boating safety, marine assistance, marine salvage and other marine-related operations. The association was created in part to afford a means of cooperation with the government in matters of national concern; to provide an objective, self-regulating body for the marine assistance industry; and to promote, through legislative, regulatory, and governmental initiatives, the maintenance and expansion of the marine assistance industry. For more information, contact C-PORT at (954) 261-2012 or visit [www.cport.us](http://www.cport.us).