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Singapore – minimum safe manning.

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# Bryant's Maritime Blog

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## **USCG – updated shipment & discharge forms for mariners**



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **Notice** stating that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved updated versions of Coast Guard forms CG-705A (Shipping Articles) and CG-718A (Certificate of Discharge to Merchant Mariner). Availability of these forms to the public will be on or about 6 January 2014. The new forms will not be stocked in paper format; rather, they will be available electronically in PDF fillable format. (12/20/13).

## USCG – NMC processing times



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **Notice** stating that it is experiencing elevated processing times and inventories for merchant mariner credential (MMC) applicants and other products and services. This is partly due to the surge of applicants seeking security endorsements required by 1 January 2014. Patience is appreciated and processing times are expected to return to normal in the near future. (12/20/13).

## USCG – Columbia River Crossing project



The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing final action on the issuance of a Coast Guard bridge permit, adoption of the bridge-related portions of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) / Federal Transit Administration (FTA) prepared Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Interstate 5 bridge across the Columbia River between Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon. A claim seeking judicial review of the Coast Guard's action on the Columbia River Crossing project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before 22 May 2014. **78 Fed. Reg. 77477** (December 23, 2013).

## TSAC – subcommittee participants sought



The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, seeks interested individuals to participate in any of its various **Subcommittees**. (12/18/13).

## BSEE – \$7 million for oil spill response research



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued a **press release** stating that it is soliciting proposals for oil spill response research projects and will be investing up to \$7 million to support these projects in 2014. (12/19/13).

## USN – contracting integrity measures tightened



The Department of Defense (DOD) issued a **news release** stating that Navy Secretary Ray Mabus ordered announced new measures to assure

contracting integrity and prevent fraud following discovery of major irregularities in ship husbanding contracts. (12/20/13).

### USCG – Marine Safety Engineering Newsletter



The US Coast Guard posted the December 2013 edition of its **Marine Safety Engineering Newsletter**. This edition includes articles on the raising of the Costa Concordia and on the transport of shale gas extraction waste water by barge. (12/20/13).

### Senate – bill introduced re Iranian sanctions



Senator Menendez (D-NJ) introduced a bill (S. 1881) to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Menendez issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (12/19/13).

### Court – Shipping Act doesn't immunize fraudulent claim



The US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit ruled that the Shipping Act of 1984 does not immunize a party from liability for violation of the False Claims Act (FCA). In the instant case, defendant freight forwarder and others were sued for submitting fraudulent claims against the federal government for foreign shipments of household goods of federal employees and military personnel. Defendant asserted, among other things, that shipping charges consistent with provisions of the Shipping Act concerning the foreign inland segment of the transportation could not, as a matter of law, be the basis of an alleged fraudulent claim. A divided court reversed the lower court ruling, denying that defense and directing the lower court to issue judgment in behalf of the government and a whistleblower in the amount of \$24 million. **United States ex rel. Bunk v. Gosselin World Wide Moving, NV**, No. 12-1369 (4th Cir., December 19, 2013).

### Canada – Enbridge Northern Gateway Project



The Joint Review Panel of the National Energy Board (NEB) of Canada issued its **Report for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project**. The project involves construction of two pipelines and construction and operation of a marine terminal at Kitimat, British Columbia for transport and export of oilsands

crude. The report contains 209 conditions for approval, including development of a marine mammal protection plan and a research program on the cleanup of heavy oil. It now goes to the federal cabinet, which has 180 days to render a final decision. (12/19/13). *Note: This item was first brought to my attention by my good friend Joe Spears of Horseshoe Bay Marine Group.*

### **Denmark – report on Emma Maersk flooding**



The Danish Maritime Accident Investigation Board issued a **news release** announcing that the severe leakage on the container ship Emma Maersk on 1 February 2013 was initially caused by the mechanical breakdown of a stern thruster, which flooded the shaft tunnel. The bulkhead between the shaft tunnel and the main engine room could not withstand the hydrostatic pressure and the main engine room was also flooded, causing a loss of propulsion and electrical power. (12/18/13).

### **Denmark – contribution to IMO for environmental compliance**



The Danish Maritime Authority issued a **news release** stating that Denmark has donated DKK 200,000 to the IMO to assist developing countries in meeting the requirements on ballast water management and CO2 emissions. (12/20/13).

### **Japan – Large Container Ship Safety Report**



The Maritime Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism posted the **English Excerpted version** of the Interim Report of the Committee on Large Container Ship Safety. This committee was established following the breakup and sinking of the container ship MOL Comfort on 17 June 2013. While no definitive cause of the casualty has yet been determined, the interim report raises questions regarding structural standards and container weight. (12/20/13).

### **Panama Canal – suspension of temporary measures**



The Panama Canal Authority issued an advisory announcing suspension of certain temporary measures in order to relieve the current backlog of ships awaiting transit. Effective 23 December, the Just-in-time (JIT) transit

service and the booking slot that has been suspended since 29 November are being reinstated. [Advisory 35-2013](#) (12/19/13).

## Singapore – minimum safe manning



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular reminding owners and operators that IMO Resolution MSC.325(90), amending SOLAS Regulation V/14 regarding safe manning requirements, enters into effect on 1 January 2014. The amendment requires that the appropriate minimum safe manning of each ship be established taking into account the “Principles of Minimum Safe Manning” adopted by IMO Resolution A.1047(27). [Shipping Circular 22-2013](#) (12/19/13).

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