

Headlines:

White House – national emergency re Somalia;
TSA – TWIC card services;
USCG – tonnage regulations;
Texas City – safety zone removal;
USCG – PWSRCAC;
DOS – visa and passport requirements;
Mobile – grounding;
USCG – Staten Island Ferries;
DOJ – guilty plea in MSC bribery case;
IMO – NOx emission requirements;
China – US SECDDOD tours aircraft carrier; and
Panama Canal – March operations.

April 8, 2014



Bryant's Maritime Blog

Bryant's Maritime Consulting - 4845 SW 91st Way - Gainesville, FL 32608-8135 - USA

Tel: 1-352-692-5493 – Email: dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com – Internet: <http://brymar-consulting.com>

Note: This blog is one section of the [Bryant's Maritime Consulting](#) website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining [Dennis Bryant](#) directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format, requiring use of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily blog entry is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. Miscellaneous maritime topics are briefly discussed in my [Maritime Musings](#) blog. Life is short. Don't make the same mistake twice – be original.

White House – national emergency re Somalia



The White House issued a **Notice** stating that President Obama has continued the national emergency with respect to Somalia, which has been determined to continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. (4/7/14).

TSA – TWIC card services



The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued a **notice** stating that it is upgrading the technology used for issuance of Transportation

Worker Identification Credentials (TWICs). During the system upgrade, specific TWIC card services will be temporarily unavailable. Services for Card Transfers, Card Replacements, and Extended Expiration Date (EED) TWIC will be unavailable from 22 April through 4 May. If you need to utilize these services and require your TWIC prior to or during this time, place your order no later than 14 April. Card Pick-Up, Activation, and Personal Identification Number (PIN) Resets will be unavailable from 26 April through 4 May. (4/4/14).

USCG – tonnage regulations



The US Coast Guard proposes to amend its tonnage regulations by implementing amendments to the tonnage measurement law made in 2010. The proposal would also codify principal technical interpretations issued by the Coast Guard and incorporate administrative, non-substantive clarifications of and updates to the tonnage regulations. Comments on the proposal must be submitted by 7 July. [79 Fed. Reg. 19419](#) (April 8, 2014).

Texas City – safety zone removal



The US Coast Guard promulgated a direct final rule removing the safety zone at Snake Island (also known as Shoal Point) within the Texas City Channel. The rule will come into effect on 7 July unless adverse written comment is received by 8 May. [79 Fed. Reg. 19289](#) (April 8, 2014).

USCG – PWSRCAC



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it has recertified, through 28 February 2015, the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee (PWSRCAC) as an alternative voluntary advisory group for Prince William Sound, Alaska. [79 Fed. Reg. 19347](#) (April 8, 2014).

DOS – visa and passport requirements



The Department of State (DOS) issued a final rule amending its regulations regarding the waiver by joint action of consular and immigration officers of visa and passport requirements for members of foreign armed forces and coast guards. The rule comes into effect immediately. [79 Fed. Reg. 19288](#) (April 8, 2014).

Mobile – grounding



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it restricted traffic through the Mobile Ship Channel after the container ship MSC Kyoto grounded between buoys 36 and 38. The grounding was reportedly the result of a steering failure. There have been no reports of injury or pollution. The incident is under investigation. A **second news release** states that the ship has been refloated and the channel is now open. (4/7/14).

USCG – Staten Island Ferries



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it regularly inspects the Staten Island Ferries, operated by the City of New York, and found that the vessels exceeded expectations in reporting marine casualties and fully cooperated with Coast Guard investigations. (4/7/14).

DOJ – guilty plea in MSC bribery case



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that the former vice president of a government contracting company pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiracy to bribe federal officials in exchange for favorable treatment for several telecommunications projects with the Military Sealift Command (MSC). The individual faces a maximum penalty of five years when he is sentenced. He agreed to forfeit \$57,000 as the proceeds of the offense. Previously, four individuals, including one former government employee, pleaded guilty in connection with the conspiracy. (4/4/14).

IMO – NOx emission requirements



The Danish Maritime Authority issued a **news release** stating that the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) reached agreement on the entry into force date for new requirements for NOx emissions in emission control areas (NECAs). The current entry into force date of 2016 will be retained for the two existing NECAs (North America and the US Caribbean Sea). The entry into force date for new NECAs will depend on when they are decided upon. (4/4/14).

China – US SECDDOD tours aircraft carrier



The Department of Defense (DOD) issued a **news release** stating that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, during his official visit to China, became the first foreign visitor to tour the Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning. The vessel is a refitted Russian carrier. (4/7/14).

Panama Canal – March operations



The Panama Canal Authority issued an advisory summarizing Canal operations during March. It also includes the schedule of locks maintenance outages for the remainder of the fiscal year. **Advisory 07-2014** (4/4/14).

Join our mailing list



If you are not receiving our almost daily electronic newsletter and would like have it sent directly to your email inbox, please right-click the box below and provide your email address.

Join Our Mailing List!



If you have questions regarding the above items, please contact the editor:

Dennis L. Bryant

Bryant's Maritime Consulting
4845 SW 91st Way
Gainesville, FL 32608-8135
USA

1-352-692-5493
dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com
<http://brymar-consulting.com>

© Dennis L. Bryant – April 2014



Redistribution permitted with attribution