

Headlines:

NTSB – El Faro docket to be reopened;
MARAD – cargo preference financing;
USCG – Polar Code overview;
Louisiana – FTZ notification;
British Columbia – crude oil tanker moratorium;
India – VGM compliance extension; and
Singapore – electronic certificates.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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NTSB – El Faro docket to be reopened



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a **press release** stating that the agency intends to open its docket on 13 December in the investigation of the sinking of the US cargo vessel El Faro. The docket contains only factual material, with no analysis or findings. (11/30/16)
[<http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/PR20161130.aspx>].

MARAD – cargo preference financing



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) published its final policy clarification regarding application of the Cargo Preference Act (CPA) to applications, commitments, and guarantees under MARAD's Federal Ship

Financing Program. Changes to its earlier draft policy include a policy that cargo preference financing may not be applied to mortgage-period financing, but that such financing does apply to all construction-period financing. The policy change is effective immediately. **81 Fed. Reg. 86771** (12/1/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-01/pdf/2016-28863.pdf>].

USCG – Polar Code overview



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** providing an overview of the Polar Code, adopted by the IMO for commercial vessels operating in polar waters. Most provisions will enter into effect on 1 January 2017, (11/30/16) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/11/30/polar-code-overview/>].

Louisiana – FTZ notification



The Department of Commerce (DOC) issued a notice stating that it received a notice of proposed production activity to a free-trade zone (FTZ) on behalf of Thoma-Sea Marine Constructors, LLC in Houma and Lockport, Louisiana. **81 Fed. Reg. 86694** (12/1/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-01/pdf/2016-28881.pdf>].

British Columbia – crude oil tanker moratorium



Transport Canada issued a **news release** stating that the Government will introduce legislation to formalize a moratorium for crude oil tankers on British Columbia's north coast. Penalties for violation could reach up to \$5 million. (11/29/16) [<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1162439>].

India – VGM compliance extension



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a notice announcing a further extension, until 31 March 2017, for compliance with the verified gross mass (VGM) requirement relating to marine shipping containers. Further extension will not be considered. **Notice 15-2016** (11/29/16) [http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201611301146224649921ms_notice_15of2016_29112016.pdf].

Singapore – electronic certificates



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular regarding use of electronic certificates onboard Singapore-flag vessels. **Shipping Circular 27-2016** (11/30/16)
[<http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/1534abe4-6693-4b16-a980-c1851f07322e>].

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