

Headlines:

USCG – 25% random drug testing rate;
USCG – online digital newsroom;
House – bill introduced to exempt old vessels;
Senate – bill introduced re hiring freeze;
GAO – DHS NCCIC evaluation; and
Denmark – new DMA website.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – 25% random drug testing rate



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that the minimum random drug testing rate for covered crewmembers for calendar year 2017 is 25%. **82 Fed. Reg. 9000** (2/3/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-02-03/pdf/2017-02337.pdf>].

USCG – online digital newsroom



The US Coast Guard has launched its new online digital newsroom located at <http://www.news.uscg.mil>. Individuals can subscribe to the news delivery service for general USCG news and for particular districts and areas of interest. (2/2/17).

House – bill introduced to exempt old vessels



Representative Chabot (R-OH) introduced a bill (**H.R. 619**) to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials and for other purposes. (1/24/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr619ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr619ih.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re hiring freeze



Senator Schatz (D-HI) introduced a bill (S. 250) to prohibit any hiring freeze from affecting any Department of Defense position at, or in support of, a public shipyard. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator Schatz issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (2/1/17) [<http://www.schatz.senate.gov/press-releases/schatz-kilmer-lead-bicameral-legislation-to-exempt-navy-shipyards-from-federal-hiring-freeze>].

GAO – DHS NCCIC evaluation



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) posted its report on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC). The report found that the NCCIC generally performs its required functions but needs to evaluate its activities more completely, including establishment of metrics and methods for such evaluation. **GAO-17-163** (2/2/17) [<http://www.gao.gov/assets/690/682435.pdf>].

Denmark – new DMA website



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a **news release** stating that it has launched a new English language website, located at <http://www.dma.dk/Sider/default.aspx>. (2/1/17) [<http://www.dma.dk/Presse/Nyheder/Sider/DMA-launches-new-English-website.aspx>].

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