



Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee

Harbor Safety Plan Enforcement



A. Harbor Safety Plan Enforcement

1. Purpose/ Scope

Standards and protocols included in the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Plan address operational and environmental issues unique to the Columbia River. The Harbor Safety Plan is not intended to supplant or otherwise conflict with federal, state or local regulations developed under legal authorities or replace the good judgment of a ship's master in the safe operation of his/her vessel. The Harbor Safety Plan is intended to complement existing regulations by advising the mariner of unique conditions and requirements that may be encountered in the Columbia River and adjacent navigable waters, and the standards and protocols developed by local experts for ensuring greater safety in light of those conditions and requirements.

2. Authorities

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is responsible for the regulation of vessel movements and inspections through the authority vested with the Captain of the Port. The USCG also establishes requirements for vessel operation and other related port safety controls.

Washington State and Oregon State are responsible for protecting state lands and waterways through the authority granted by state law. State regulations include, but are not limited to, requirements for: inspections of facilities and vessels operating in or affecting state waters; contingency and response plans to improve safety and reduce the risk of incidents; spill notifications to the state; and water quality standards.

In the event of a regulatory violation, the appropriate state or federal agency must be notified. Federal and state agencies have the power to impose criminal and civil penalties for violations.

B. Enforcement Procedures

Upon notification or determination of a failure to follow the guidelines as described in the Harbor Safety Plan, the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) may request the USCG or other appropriate agency take action to correct the problem.

The HSC may also request federal and state agencies forward to the committee any comments or suggestions from harbor users concerning their experiences with existing safety and enforcement mechanisms.