



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG-2017-0422]

Certificate of Alternative Compliance for the TUG INDEPENDENCE

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces that a Certificate of Alternative Compliance (COAC) was issued for the TUG INDEPENDENCE. We are issuing this notice because its publication is required by statute.

DATES: The Certificate of Alternative Compliance was issued on May 9th, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information or questions about this notice call or e-mail Mr. Kevin Miller, First District Towing Vessel/Barge Safety Specialist, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone (617) 223-8272, e-mail <Kevin.L.Miller2@uscg.mil >.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The United States is signatory to the International Maritime Organization's International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), as amended. The special construction or purpose of some vessels makes them unable to comply with the light, shape, and sound signal provisions of the 72 COLREGS. Under statutory law¹ and Coast Guard regulation,²

¹ 33 U.S.C. 1605(c)

² 33 CFR 81.3

a vessel may instead meet alternative requirements and the vessel's owner, builder, operator, or agent may apply for a COAC. For vessels of special construction, the cognizant Coast Guard District Office determines whether the vessel for which the COAC is sought complies as closely as possible with the 72 COLREGS, and decides whether to issue the COAC. Once issued, a COAC remains valid until information supplied in the COAC application or the COAC terms become inapplicable to the vessel. Under the governing statute³ and regulation,⁴ the Coast Guard must publish notice of this action.

The Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, certifies that the TUG INDEPENDENCE is a vessel of special construction or purpose, and that, with respect to the position of the navigation and towing lights, it is not possible to comply fully with the requirements of the provisions enumerated in the 72 COLREGS, without interfering with the normal operation of the vessel. The Commandant further finds and certifies that the sidelights (13' 2.75" from the vessel's side mounted on the pilot house) and stern/towing lights (5' 6.5" aft of frame 18 mounted on top of the pilot house) are in the closest possible compliance with the applicable provisions of the 72 COLREGS and that full compliance with the 72 COLREGS would not significantly enhance the safety of the vessel's operation.

This notice is issued under authority of 33 U.S.C. 1605(c) and 33 CFR 81.

Dated: June 13, 2017.

CAPT B. L. Black,
Chief, Prevention Department, First District,
U. S. Coast Guard.

³ 33 U.S.C. 1605(c)

⁴ 33 CFR 81.18

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