



**BILLING CODE: 4163-18-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[Docket No. CDC-2017-0115]

**Availability of Draft Vessel Sanitation Program (VSP)  
Operations Manual and VSP Construction Guidelines**

**AGENCY:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),  
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comment

**SUMMARY:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announces the opening of a public docket to obtain

comment on the draft Vessel Sanitation Program (VSP) Operations Manual and the VSP Construction Guidelines. Information about locating these documents can be found in the supporting materials section and on the VSP website. VSP established the public health standards found in the VSP Operations Manual and Construction Guidelines to target the control and prevention of gastrointestinal illnesses on cruise ships. The VSP Operations Manual and Construction Guidelines were last updated in 2011. New technology, advanced food science, and emerging pathogens require updates to these documents.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number CDC-2017-0115, by any of the following methods:

- *Internet:* Access the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Vessel Sanitation Program, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway, MS F-59, Chamblee,  
Georgia 30341-3717.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name  
and docket number for this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Commander Aimee  
Treffiletti, Chief, Vessel Sanitation Program, National  
Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway N.E., MS F-59,  
Chamblee, Georgia 30341-3717; phone: 800-323-2132 or 954-  
356-6650; email: [vsp@cdc.gov](mailto:vsp@cdc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

HHS/CDC established the Vessel Sanitation Program  
(VSP) in the 1970s as a cooperative activity with the  
cruise ship industry. VSP helps the cruise ship industry  
prevent and control the introduction, transmission, and  
spread of gastrointestinal illnesses (GI) on cruise ships.  
VSP operates under the authority of the Public Health  
Service Act (Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act;  
[42 U.S.C. 264](#), "Control of Communicable Diseases").

Regulations found at [42 CFR 71.41](#) state that carriers arriving at U.S. ports from a foreign area are subject to sanitary inspections to determine whether rodent, insect, or other vermin infestations exist, or whether contaminated food or water or other sanitary conditions requiring measures for the prevention of the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases are present.

VSP established the public health standards found in the current version of the VSP Operations Manual and VSP Construction Guidelines. These standards target the control and prevention of GI illnesses on cruise ships.

VSP is updating the VSP Operations Manual to reflect new technologies, current food science, disease patterns and trends, and emerging pathogens. VSP also is updating the VSP Construction Guidelines as a framework of consistent construction and design guidelines related to public health, including vessel facilities related to food storage, preparation, and service and water bunkering, storage, disinfection, and distribution.

The draft VSP Operations Manual and the draft VSP Construction Guidelines are available online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), Docket No. CDC-2017-0115, under Supplemental Materials.

Date: November 27, 2017

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Sandra Cashman,

*Executive Secretary,*

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

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