

U.S. Coast Guard Casualty Reporting And Marine Investigations

Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations Part 4 – Marine Casualties and Investigations

- Marine casualty: any casualty or accident involving any vessel other than a public vessel that occurs on the navigable waters of the U.S., involves any U.S. vessel anywhere, involves a foreign tank vessel in the EEZ with significant harm to the environment or material damage to the vessel affecting the seaworthiness or efficiency of the vessel. Marine casualties are events caused by, or involving a vessel, and can include the following:
 - Fall overboard, injury, or loss of life of any person;
 - Grounding;
 - Flooding;
 - Collision;
 - Allision;
 - Explosion;
 - Fire;
 - Reduction or loss of a vessel's electrical power, propulsion or steering;
 - Failure or occurrence which impairs any aspect of a vessel's operation, components, or cargo;
 - Anything that might affect the vessel seaworthiness, efficiency, or fitness for service or route;
 - Any incident involving significant harm to the environment;
 - Injury or loss of life to a person while diving from a vessel and using underwater breathing apparatus.

- Notifications to the Coast Guard must be made immediately – without delay – after addressing any resultant safety concerns.

- Follow-up with a CG-2692, Report of Marine Casualty form may be required.

- Post-casualty drug and alcohol testing is not always required – incident needs to meet certain criteria.

- Alcohol testing must be conducted within 2 hours of the time of the incident and not more than 8 hours after.

- Drug testing must be conducted within 32 hours of the time of the incident.

- A Coast Guard Investigating Officer will always follow-up on a reported marine casualty to determine the following:
 - Is it report genuine?
 - How severe is the incident or how severe will it become?
 - Does the Coast Guard have jurisdiction?
 - Should other offices or agencies be notified of the incident?
 - What level of Coast Guard investigative effort is required?