

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 04-25

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: PROPULSION INCIDENTS ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Date: 16 July 2025

This Marine Safety Advisory (MSA) supersedes MSA No. 16-22.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector New Orleans has amended 33 CFR 165.810 to ensure port safety and protect the navigable waters of the Mississippi River from environmental harm resulting from allisions, collisions, and groundings.

Due to the restricted nature of the navigable waterway, the USCG has designated the Lower Mississippi River (from the Head of Passes to river mile marker 233.9) including South Pass and Southwest Pass, as a regulated navigation area¹ to enhance the safety of passenger vessels moored or anchored in the Mississippi River.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) recommends that owners, operators, and Masters of RMI-flagged vessels calling the Mississippi River review the requirements detailed in USCG Sector New Orleans Marine Safety Information Bulletin Volume XVIII, Issue: 017, [Mississippi River Regulated Navigation Area Vessel Requirements](#). Additionally, the Administrator reminds Masters the importance of conducting proper pre-arrival and pre-departure testing, as required by 33 CFR §164.25, *Tests before entering or getting underway*.

A summary of the Administrator’s requirements for reporting marine casualties and marine incidents is provided in the [MI-260, Rules for Marine Investigations and Administrative Proceedings](#). While the Administrator’s regulations require immediate notification (within 24 hours of occurrence) of marine casualties and incidents, owners, operators, and Masters are encouraged to notify the Administrator as soon as safely possible at: dutyofficer@register-iri.com.

¹ 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §165.10 defines a regulated navigation area as “a water area within a defined boundary for which regulations for vessels navigating within the area have been established under this part”. Specific requirements for ships navigating the Mississippi River regulated navigation area are detailed in 33 CFR Part 165.810, amended 7 July 2025

This MSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.