



**Homeland
Security**

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 11 Northern Region**
Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



Suggestions for updating of the Vessel Examiner-VSC Manual

30 January 2009

The following suggestions were submitted by D11NR examiners in response to an offer to have their suggestions considered when updating of the VSC Manual. The suggestions are not listed in the order of importance and only the content of the suggestion has edited by Mike Lauro DSO-VE.

- 1-Print the manual in a 3-hole loose-leaf format so it can be easily up-dated with out a complete re-do of the manual.
- 2-Suggest a time limit to complete the VE qualification. Suggest no longer 6-months from completion of exam until 5 practice VSC's are completed.
- 3-Suggest having to perform a minimum of 10 VSC's per year instead of 5.
- 4-The present manual is too simplistic with poor illustrations and poor explanations. VE's don't know why something needs to be done a certain way
- 5- Update the 7038 for to eliminate Commercial Fishing Vessel Exams, Uninspected Passenger Vessels, and Uninspected Towing Vessel Exams.
- 6-Update the 7012/204 form with a couple of lines for a COMMENTS section.
- 7-Under Item 2, Registration and Documentation, show a copy of the USCG Documentation certificate, what it looks like, and offer more detail explanation about documentation in general.
- 8- Include a Facility section in loose-leaf for the Auxiliary so it may be updated in a timely manor. Include the same criteria as the Operations Policy Manual on the placement of flags and the size of signs.
- 9-#1...on Facility Exams - An additional mounted fire extinguisher to hand to boater.
- 10-A section needs to be written dealing with etiquette, professionalism, and appearance, since we are representing the CG and performing a service to the boating public.
- 11- Clarify the difference between auto and marine parts and why they shouldn't be installed on an inboard engine. Specifically mention: alternator, starter, carburetor and fuel pump.
- 12- It would be a good idea to have all material to pass the exam and perform VSC's and perform facility inspection in one manual.

13-Completely re-work the fire extinguisher section. No where in the current manual does it state that all portable extinguishers should be replaced after 12 years. Additionally nowhere does it state that all extinguishers have a date of Mfg. on them: either in the label, stamped into the bottom or around the neck.

Also the CO2 goes by weight and needs to be Hydro tested every 5 years. This is normally stamped up near the neck. They also must be DOT or ICC approved. That is stamped on the cylinder up around the neck. All extinguishers must be UL labeled approved.

14-Clarify the Nav. Rule requirement about the bell requirement and include Sole State Waters.

15-Clarify the requirement for the Navigation Rule book-printed copy only, NOT a CD or on a computer. Nowhere does the current manual state that a copy is not needed on Sole-Sate Water.

16-The manual should be made simpler and clearer about which vessels need flares and Nav. lights. A vessel need not be equipped with lights (PWC's are generally not), but if a boat is so equipped, the lights must all be installed properly and all be in working in order to award a VSC decal. If there are no lights, then the vessel can still pass the VSC; it just needs to be off the water prior to sunset.

17- Suggest closer inspection of the engine and bilge area and the ventilator/blower system to verify the presence of oil, non-marine components, or deteriorated or blocked ventilation hoses.

18- What about chapter markings on the edge of the pages similar to what you see in a phone book? With a copy in the field, if you ran into a situation where reference was needed, it would be helpful if you could scan the page markers on the side for say life vests, or navigation lights, something to that effect.

19- It shouldn't take 5 tries to pass the on-line exam! Exam and possible answers should be less ambiguous. In addition, many on-line exam answers don't appear in the VSC Manual. The written and on-line exam should be the same.

20-Consider a brief paragraph to the "Team" approach to performing VSC's.

21-Remove references to Uninspected Passenger Vessels in manual.

22-Clarify item #14-State and Local Requirements to show that it does not include mussel inspections, etc.

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