

CIRCULAR 001-19; JANUARY 11, 2019

Impacts of US Government Shutdown

Announcement

Due to a lapse in funding, the U.S. Government is currently experiencing a partial shutdown that is impacting many of the Government offices we work with daily. The key U.S. Coast Guard operational capabilities as well as many of the administrative offices are fully functional, however, there are some functions that have been impacted. Here is the current status of operations at this time:

- **USCG COTP and Field Offices:** Operational with some diminished capabilities due to a reduction in civilian staff.
- **Vessel Response Plan (VRP) Updates and Approvals:** Operational and continue to accept and review VRP/NT VRP submissions.
- **Certificates of Financial Responsibility (COFRs):** Reduced staffing has caused significant delays in the processing of USCG COFR requests. Applications should still be submitted through the eCOFR website; however, we recommend you contact the applicable local USCG office if you have any vessels with an upcoming arrival where the COFR is still in process.
- **National Vessel Movement Center (NVMC):** Operational with some diminished capabilities due to a reduction in civilian staff. We recommend filing eNOA/Ds in advance of the 96hr deadline, if possible, to allow for additional time for review by USCG.
- **National Ballast Information Clearing House (NBIC):** Operational with some diminished capabilities due to a reduction in civilian staff.
- **Ballast Water Extension Requests:** Reduced staffing has caused delays in the response times on extension requests.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also been impacted by the shutdown, and many functions, such as the CDX helpdesk, are currently unavailable. The EPA CDX website is operational, and the 2018 Annual Reports are still due to EPA by February 28, 2019. Please contact us if you have any issues accessing your account or submitting the reports.

As the shutdown continues it is expected that prolonged reduction in administrative staffing and possible furloughs may further impact the industry. We will send out an additional notification if there are any significant changes to the operating status for any of the offices mentioned above. Please contact us if you experience any issues or delays in your operation as a result of the shutdown, and we will do everything we can to assist with a resolution of the issue.

Contact Us:

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the Vessel Services Team at inquiry@wittobriens.com or the direct emails below.

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