



16751

## MEMORANDUM

From: CGD13 (dp) 

Reply to: dp  
Attn of: Dan Shipman  
206 220-7257

To: CG Sector Puget Sound, WA  
CG Sector Columbia River, OR  
CG Group/Airsta North Bend, OR

Subj: VESSEL SAFETY CHECK/OPERATION PADDLE SMART INSPECTION  
PROJECT FOR NON MOTORIZED CRAFT

Ref: (a) D13INST 16751. Operation Paddle Smart  
(b) COMDTINST M16796.8 Vessel Safety Check Manual  
(c) COMDTINST 16796.7 Vessel Safety Check Program

1. The Thirteenth District (D13) in partnership with the First District is undertaking a three year project to develop and evaluate a program for a combined Vessel Safety Check (VSC) and Operation Paddle Smart (OPSS) decal to verify compliance with the requirements of Enclosure (a) and (b). Combining both programs for paddle craft will further the goals of increased safety in the paddle craft user community and more effective use of Search and Rescue resources (e.g. eliminate responses to false alerts and decrease response times for genuine emergencies).
2. D13 (dpi) developed a single decal that constitutes VSC certification and provides owner contact information known as the ("if found decal"). Decals were provided to the Coast Guard Auxiliary and US Power Squadron for distribution starting 1 January 2012. Decals will be issued to the paddle craft operator upon successful completion of a VSC as defined in Reference (c). Only Coast Guard Auxiliary and US Power Squadron Vessel Examiners (VE) will conduct VSCs. Therefore, they alone will issue the new decal.
3. The Auxiliary ANSC-7038 Vessel Examination Activity Report form, dated 09-11, provides the means for reporting paddle craft inspection information. It is available at <http://forms.cgaux.org/email.php> in PDF and e-Form formats. The AUXDATA Activity Log has been modified to include the Paddle Craft Mission Category (91H). OPCON will be required for this entry (Sector, Group or Station), without which there will be no way of determining where in the District the exams were conducted. Currently, the 91H Mission category is not included in the "mission-to-resources" cross reference that lists all categories, activities, missions, etc.
4. In the event a vessel operator does not wish to participate in the VSC program, OPSS "If Found" decals (no VSC certification) will be provided. Sectors will provide the decals to the Auxiliary and Power Squadron (dpi will provide decals to Sectors). Mr. Dan Shipman, D13 (dpi), RBS Specialist is the Project Manager for the new VSC/OPSS program.

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