



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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U.S. Coast Guard
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Reporting Sexual Misconduct and Harassment on U.S. Vessels – Cancels and Supersedes MSIB 1-23

Sexual misconduct and harassment incidents that occur onboard U.S. flagged vessels harm mariners, interrupt safe operations, and often lead to accidents, lost careers, and a lifetime of trauma for the survivors who endure the abuse. The Coast Guard is committed to investigating and pursuing appropriate enforcement actions for all verified reports of misconduct on U.S. flagged vessels. Recent statutory changes in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026 have updated the required reporting requirements for harassment. This Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) supersedes MSIB 1-23 “Reporting Sexual Misconduct on U.S. Vessels” issued on February 9, 2023.

Updated Definition of Harassment

The NDAA 2026 (Sec. 7315) updated the definition of “harassment” which has amended [46 U.S. Code § 10104\(h\)](#). The new definition of harassment includes conduct prohibited by existing federal anti-discrimination statutes, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

Mandatory Reports

[46 U.S. Code § 10104](#), as amended, requires the responsible entity of a vessel, defined as the owner, master, or managing operator of a documented vessel engaged in commercial service, or employer of a seafarer on such vessel, to report to the Coast Guard any complaint or incident of sexual harassment or sexual assault in violation of company policy or law or harassment, as defined by 46 U.S. Code § 10104(h)), of which the responsible entity is made aware.

Voluntary Reports

Other forms of misconduct that may fall outside the statutory definition of harassment of [46 U.S. Code § 10104](#) (e.g., bullying and hazing that are not associated with a protected class) are still potential misconduct violations enforceable by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard takes allegations of such incidents very seriously and will conduct administrative enforcement investigations under [46 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 5.27](#) against credentialed mariners who commit offenses that violate company policy. Accordingly, the Coast Guard strongly encourages voluntarily reporting of severe or pervasive acts of bullying, hazing, or other intimidating behaviors where the perpetrator is a credentialed mariner.

This release has been issued for public information and notification purposes only

Facilitating Reports

To help facilitate reporting, the Coast Guard established multiple reporting options that are received and reviewed by the Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS). Sexual misconduct and harassment reports can be filed via email to CGISTIPS@uscg.mil or called into the National Command Center phone number at 202-372-2100. Reports can also be filed using the *CGIS Tips App*, which can be downloaded from a mobile provider's marketplace using the following QR code:



An investigation will be initiated into all reports received with follow-up communications to the reporting party when contact information is provided. When the responsible entity in charge of a U.S. flagged vessel makes a report via one of the three options detailed above, including providing detailed contact information for further follow-up, the report will satisfy the reporting requirements of [46 U.S. Code § 10104\(a\)](#).

CGIS will leverage all available resources to immediately initiate a criminal investigation for crimes occurring on a U.S. flagged vessel anywhere in the world. Further, the Coast Guard will initiate administrative investigations and respond to all reports of misconduct regarding credentialed mariners. Misconduct that occurs on board U.S. flagged vessel will be pursued through criminal prosecution and/or actions against U.S. Coast Guard issued Merchant Mariner Credentials to ensure accountability and a safe work environment.

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