

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

## INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY- EPA GENERAL PERMIT FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS



Special Emphasis is on the Impact to Tug and Barge Operations

MARITIME INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND GRADUATE STUDIES- PACIFIC MARITIME INSTITUTE



**Pacific Maritime Institute (PMI)**  
Seattle, Washington

**Course Convening Dates:**  
Call for Custom Offering



**Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS)**  
Linthicum, Maryland

**Course Convening Dates:**  
May 26-27, 2010  
September 1-2, 2010  
November 10-11, 2010

For additional information, please contact Captain Robert Becker toll-free at (866) 656-5569 or via e-mail at rbecker@mitags.org.

### DO YOU KNOW THE DEFINITION OF NPDES, MARPOL, VGP, OR NOI?

If not, you are encouraged to attend the MITAGS/PMI "Introduction to Environmental Regulations in the Maritime Industry – EPA General Permit for Commercial Vessels" program. The course will provide detailed updates on the following:

- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).
- U.S. Clean Air Act.
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
- Vessel General Permit (VGP).
- Notice of Intent (NOI).

### Course Duration:

**PMI:** 1 or 2 Days. However, Day 1 is a pre-requisite for Day 2.

**MITAGS:** 2 Days. Tuition is \$550 for both days.

### What You Will Learn:

With the introduction of the Vessel General Permit (VGP), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has captured an estimated 70,000 additional regulated units that have previously been exempt from permitting requirements in U.S. waters. In the brief time granted for implementation, this new universe of permittees; while previously subject to numerous international, national, state and local requirements; will be challenged to understand, incorporate, and manage a new set of discharge requirements that were previously unregulated by the EPA.

A Clean Water Act Permit is a unique regulatory tool with which commercial vessel operators have little to no experience. Therefore, training will be required not only on the specific requirements of the permit, but also on the environmental aspects of vessel operations, reading and interpretation of the VGP, monitoring, recordkeeping, recording, notification requirements, and Notice of Intent (NOI), as well as other aspects of the permit implementation.

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## DAY ONE:

The first day of the course provides an introduction to the environmental aspects of vessel operations and the basic structure of the marine regulatory environment. It is intended to give the vessel operator a broader perspective on the potential environmental impact of their operation in order to gain a greater appreciation for why the permit is now required. This section of the program will also cover MARPOL, with a primary focus on bilge water, ballast water, gray, and black water; as well as air pollution requirements mandated by international and federal law. VGP requirements for these discharges will also be reviewed; however, a more complete discussion will occur during the second day of class.

## DAY TWO:

The second day of the course is specifically devoted to the permit. Each student will be given a copy of the permit for use during class. Much of the day will involve discussion and analysis of the permit language. It will also focus on how the requirements will apply to the specific vessels operated by the course attendees. Classroom exercises will reinforce key learning concepts, while catering to the more active learning demands of the adult student. Specific requirements for permit administration will also be reviewed to provide the student with insight into the management systems that are necessary to ensure compliance. In addition, the class will focus on effluent limitations, corrective actions, monitoring, recordkeeping, and recording. The importance, and implications, of certification statements will also be emphasized. Classroom discussion and activities will lead the student through active learning exercises that apply permit concepts to their operations.

## Course Design, Methodology, and Objectives:

This course is specifically designed as a training program for operators who are subject to the VGP.

Course objectives include the following:

- Describe the major environmental aspects of domestic and international vessel operations.
- Explain the relationship between MARPOL, the flag states, and port state environmental requirements.
- List the principal requirements of MARPOL Annex I, IV, V, and VI as they relate to vessel operations.
- List the areas where vessel operations are subject to the VGP.
- Identify the effluent limitations that are applicable to the vessels operated by course attendees.
- Describe the corrective action process and the corrective action timetable that is applicable to potential permit discrepancies.
- Present a general plan for compliance that meets the VGP inspection requirements.
- List the required VGP records.
- Complete a draft NOI, which would be submitted to the EPA for coverage under the VGP.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

**PMI:** For additional information on this program at PMI, please contact Mr. Gregg Trunnell toll-free at (888) 893-7829 or via e-mail at [gtrunnell@mates.org](mailto:gtrunnell@mates.org). Interested individuals may also visit the PMI website at [www.mates.org](http://www.mates.org).

**MITAGS:** For additional information on this program at MITAGS, please contact Captain Robert Becker toll-free at (866) 656-5569 or via e-mail at [rbecker@mitags.org](mailto:rbecker@mitags.org). Interested individuals may also visit the MITAGS website at [www.mitags.org](http://www.mitags.org).