



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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MSIB Number: 06-26
Date: 9 September 2026
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MSIB 06-26 Commercial Diving – USCG/OSHA Casualty Reporting Requirements – Cancels and Supersedes MSIB 004-14

This MSIB clarifies the reporting requirements for casualties during commercial diving operations applicable to 46 CFR 197 Subpart B and 29 CFR 1910, Subpart T. Industry should be cognizant that both the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have certain reporting requirements that must be adhered to, and in many cases, reports must be filed with both agencies. This MSIB does not apply to recreational scuba diving operations performed from inspected and uninspected commercial vessels.

USCG: Generally, the Coast Guard requires notice of a marine casualty to be provided in accordance with [46 CFR § 4.05-1](#). In addition, commercial diving accidents must be reported in accordance with the requirements found in [46 CFR § 197.484](#) and followed with a written report in accordance with [46 CFR § 197.486](#).

The [Navigation and Inspection Circular No. 01-15](#) provides guidance for the identification and reporting of marine casualties, including diving casualties, as well as associated standard interpretations of the regulations to assist involved parties in the casualty reporting process.

Contact information for various Coast Guard units is located at the following location: <https://www.uscg.mil/Responsive/>. For commercial diving casualties occurring from units subject to the jurisdiction of the USCG Heartland District Outer Continental Shelf Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCS OCMI), as identified in [33 CFR § 3.40-5](#), these notifications should be made to the OCS OCMI at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Heartland-District/Divisions/OCS/>.

OSHA: OSHA reporting requirements apply to employers who have employees, or contract employees who they supervise on a day-to-day basis, aboard vessels (such as ships and barges), that do not have a Certificate of Inspection (COI) or on offshore oil rigs and platforms, when such vessels or rigs and platforms are located on or within U.S. navigable waterways (U.S. inland waters and State territorial waters). OSHA's jurisdiction generally extends 3 nautical miles seaward from the general coastline, except for Puerto Rico and the Gulf Coast of Florida and Texas, where OSHA's coverage extends for 9 nautical miles. OSHA refers to these areas as "State territorial waters" (i.e., waters within the territory of a state). Please reference: https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/cpl_02_01_066.pdf

Under OSHA's occupational injury and illness recordkeeping regulation ([29 CFR § 1904.39](#)), employers must report to OSHA within eight (8) hours each work-related fatality, and within twenty-four (24) hours each work-related inpatient hospitalization, amputation, and loss of an eye by telephone or in person to the OSHA Area Office that is nearest to the site of the incident; by telephone to the OSHA toll-free central telephone number (1-800-321-OSHA); or by electronic submission using the Serious Event Reporting Online Forum reporting application located

on OSHA's public website, entitled Report a Fatality or Severe Injury. All employers under OSHA jurisdiction must report these incidents to OSHA, even employers who are partially exempt from routinely keeping injury and illness records because of company size or industry classification. (See <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/CPL-02-00-172.pdf>)

Many States operate their own OSHA-approved workplace safety and health programs that must be at least as effective as OSHA in protecting workers. Reporting requirements may vary by State Plan. For more information, visit the <https://www.osha.gov/stateplans> website.

This MSIB cancels MSIB 004-014: Commercial Diving – USCG/OSHA Casualty Reporting Requirements

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this information bulletin, email the USCG Vessel and Facility Operating Standards Division at HQS-DG-1st-CG-OES-2@uscg.mil.

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