



ALASKA MARITIME  
PREVENTION & RESPONSE  
**NETWORK**

**WAK-APC-T**  
**Operating Procedures for Oil Tankers**  
**Transiting or Operating in Western Alaska Waters**



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**RECORD OF CHANGE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Page #</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Apr-16	Update Operating Procedures wording regarding innocent passage			
Apr-16	Update version in footer	Footer	All	Updated to V3.1-12-15
Apr-16	Remove underline from words "on all voyages"	Para I	1	Remove underline to avoid confusion between voyages to/from US port and innocent passage voyages.
Apr-16	Delete "and" from para IV	Para IV	1	Grammatical update, remove "and" from
Apr-16	Delete "even when on innocent passage" from Sec. 5,	Sec. 5 Routing Measures for	2	Remove reference to APC routing measures being applicable on Innocent Passage
Apr-16	Add language on innocent passage and IMO ATBA to Sec. 5, para I	Sec. 5 Routing Measures for Vessels	3	Add language to encourage / remind vessels on innocent passage that the IMO ATBA's are applicable as a standard of care for their operations.
Apr-16	Delete Sec. 8	Sec. 8 Timely Notice of	4	Remove paragraph, duplicate to Sec. 3.
Apr-16	Add Sec. 8	Sec. 8 Notification of Deviation from Approved Routes	4	Add paragraph to explain deviation process.
Apr-16	Update website address	Contacts	7	Update website spelling, <a href="http://www.ak-mprn.org">www.ak-mprn.org</a>



**WAK-APC-T**  
**Operating Procedures for Oil Tankers Transiting or Operating**  
**In Western Alaska Waters**  
**December 26, 2015**

The Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) Operating Procedures were developed to mitigate the risk of maritime incidents that result in oil spills. This document outlines risk mitigation measures a Master or Captain of Oil Tankers shall adhere to when transiting Alaska waters where this APC applies. Compliance with these Operating Procedures on all voyages in Alaska waters where this APC applies is a condition of participating in the Network's APC. Nothing in the Operating Procedures is intended to control or limit the ultimate authority of the master or captain of an oil tanker in the safe navigation of his or her vessel or constrain the authority of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port where this APC applies.

These Operating Procedures apply to the above referenced oil tankers operating in Western Alaska waters outside of Cook Inlet in the Coast Guard Captain of the Port Western Alaska zone that extends to the seaward boundaries of the U.S. EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone – up to 200 miles offshore).

An important component of the enhanced environmental protection and response capabilities provided by this APC is the Maritime Domain Awareness and Engagement with vessels enrolled in the Network. Accordingly, all vessels enrolled in the Network shall be equipped with an operable AIS (Automatic Identification System) transceiver that properly transmits information on the vessel's operational and navigation status.

The Alaska Maritime Prevention and Response Network (Network) maintains a 7x24 watch that uses a network of terrestrial and satellite Automatic Identification System (AIS) receivers to monitor compliance with these operating procedures. When non-compliance is detected the Network Monitoring Center will contact the master, owner/operator and Coast Guard of the situation as agreed to in the owner/operator Network Membership application.

1. Documents: The Master shall have a copy of the Coast Guard AK-APC-T approval letter and the relevant Operating Procedures on board prior to operating in Alaska waters

where this APC applies.

2. Automatic Identification System (AIS): The master shall ensure the vessel's AIS is transmitting accurate information, including the vessel's type, dimensions and destination. Additionally, the AIS shall transmit proper information regarding the vessel's operation. "Not Under Command" shall not be transmitted unless a vessel has encountered "extraordinary circumstances" that interfere with the safe navigation of the vessel as per the International Rules of the Road. The Network will contact the ship when AIS transmissions of "Not Under Command" are broadcast to determine the nature of the problem the vessel is experiencing.
3. Reporting of Hazardous Condition: The Master shall notify the Network and the appropriate Coast Guard Captain of the Port of any hazardous condition, mechanical or structural failures, reduced propulsion due to mechanical deficiencies or need to conduct servicing or repairs while underway that affect propulsion, or other vessel casualties incurred while operating within the U.S. EEZ (200 miles) in Western Alaska. The notification shall be made within one hour of occurrence and the master of the vessel will ensure hourly updates and position reports are provided to the Captain of the Port and the Network until the situation is resolved to the satisfaction of the Coast Guard. A "Hazardous Condition" as defined in 33 CFR 160.204 which includes but is not limited to any condition that may adversely affect the safety and seaworthiness of any vessel, bridge, structure, or shore area or the environmental quality of any port, harbor, or navigable waterway of the United States. It may, but need not, involve collision, allision, fire, explosion, grounding, leaking, damage, injury or illness of a person aboard, or manning-shortage.
4. Notification of QI: Consistent with the procedures for notifying the QI (Qualified Individual) in the approved Vessel Response Plan, the Network will provide assistance in contacting the QI should an incident resulting in or presenting a threat of oil pollution at the request of the master of the vessel or operator.
5. Routing Measures for Vessels: Offshore routing is one means of reducing the risk of marine casualties. Distance offshore provides more time for repairs to be effected by the vessel's crew if a hazardous condition develops, provides time to respond to navigational errors and time for an assist vessel to arrive on scene before a vessel grounds. Vessels enrolled in the APC shall comply with the routing measures outlined below on all voyages, unless the master determines that due to weather or other

factors it is unsafe to do so. In these instances notice of deviation shall be made as addressed in section 8 below. Enrolled vessels on innocent passage transits are encouraged to comply with the IMO Aleutian Areas to be Avoided (ATBA) at times when the routing measures contained in the Network APC do not otherwise apply.

- a. Aleutian Islands: Routes between Attu and Shumagin Islands: Except when proceeding to and from an Alaskan port or lightering area, or crossing the Aleutian Islands through an authorized pass, the vessel shall maintain a distance of a minimum of 75 miles offshore and avoid transiting within the Aleutian Island Areas to be Avoided (ATBA), adopted by IMO January 1, 2016 (IMO SN.1/Circ.331). The only authorized passes crossing the Aleutian Island chain are Unimak Pass, Amutka Pass, Amchitka Pass and the pass between Buldir Island and Agattu Island. With the exception of vessels transiting Unimak Pass, vessels shall maintain a distance of 12 miles or more offshore while transiting these authorized passes.
    - I. Additional Area To Be Avoided (ATBA): Vessels shall ensure they do not pass closer than 12 miles from Bogoslof Island, located approximately 20 miles north of Umnak Island (53.56N 168.02W).
  - b. Western Alaska North of the Aleutian Islands (Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea): With exception of vessels making port calls or proceeding to lightering areas, transiting vessels shall sail on a route that ensures a distance of minimum of 12 miles offshore is maintained with exception of the Bering Strait, where a distance of 3 miles offshore shall be maintained. When making *Western Alaska* port calls or proceeding to and from lightering areas reviewed by the COTP Western Alaska, variances from the reduced risk route may be modified to safely navigate to and from the port or lightering area.
  - c. Gulf of Alaska: For Gulf of Alaska waters east of Shumagin Islands transiting vessels shall sail on a route that ensures a distance of minimum of 12 miles offshore is maintained except for vessels in the process of entering or departing a port or place.
6. Transits in Waters with Ice Conditions: The vessel's Master shall evaluate weather and ice conditions prior to entering Western Alaska waters and if ice may be encountered, shall ensure the vessel's hull is suitable for operating in the projected ice conditions and the following guidelines adhered to when ice is encountered.

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- a. Ensure the proper operation of all vessel machinery in ice impacted waters and when ambient air temperatures to -40 degrees F. This includes but is not limited to emergency fire pumps, generators and mooring winches.
  - b. Ensure an adequate vessel draft is maintained to keep the vessel's sea suction and propeller well below the ice to prevent ice from sliding under the vessel.
  - c. Unless the vessel is designed to break ice, the vessel should not force ice at any time. "Forcing Ice" is defined as making way through ice that is substantial enough to significantly slow the speed of the vessel, or when the vessel slows to 50% or less of the speed made before entering the ice. If the master, pilot or both believe the vessel is forcing ice, the master shall abort the transit and navigate to safer waters until more favorable conditions are present.
  - d. Ensure compliance with any "Ice Rules" applicable to particular areas when issued and effective by Captain of the Port, Western Alaska.
7. Fuel Switching Procedures: The vessel shall comply with Coast Guard Marine Safety Alert MSA 03-09 that addressed precautions to be undertaken when switching propulsion fuels and prescribes fuel switching be completed outside of 12 miles offshore.
8. Notification of Deviation from Approved Routes: If a vessel is unable to comply with the reduced risk routes, or the vessel's master determines due to weather or the master believes it is safer to take an alternative course, the master shall notify the Alaska Maritime Prevention and Response Network (Network) and the Captain of the Port Western Alaska as appropriate before the deviation is made. An explanation of the reason for deviation from the risk mitigation measures shall also be provided. Phone and e-mail contact information for the Network's 24 Operations Center and the Coast Guard Captain of the Port of Western Alaska are provided at the end of this document. If a deviation request is granted, the vessel shall notify the Network and Captain of the Port upon deviating from the approved route and upon resuming the approved route when the deviation is no longer necessary for the safety of the vessel and crew.

### Additional Port Call Risk Reduction Measures

1. Oil tankers operating under this APC will comply with the following to reduce the risk of environmental incidents when making port calls in *Western Alaska*.
  - In addition to fulfilling the required notice of arrival to the Coast Guard in 33 CFR 160, the vessel or authorized representative shall provide 48 hour advance notice of transfer of oil cargo to the Captain of the Port Western Alaska via E-mail at [sectoranchoragearrivals@uscg.mil](mailto:sectoranchoragearrivals@uscg.mil) or via phone at (907) 428-4200.
  - The vessel will proceed at minimum safe maneuvering speed for the prevailing conditions when entering territorial seas while entering or departing port or lightering area.
  - The vessel will not proceed to closer than 12 miles from the oil transfer port/facility until confirmation is received that a towing vessel is immediately available to get underway and capable to assist if needed.
  - The vessel will not proceed to closer than 3 miles from the oil transfer port/facility until an escort towing vessel is in the immediate vicinity of the tank vessel available and capable to assist as needed to ensure a safe transit and emergency towing gear on the oil tanker is operational and personnel standing by to the deploy towing gear or receive a line from the tug as the situation dictates.
  - Prior to conducting a transfer to a vessel or facility the vessel will verify with the receiving facility or vessel that an oil spill recovery barge, containment boom deployment vessel(s) and personnel are immediately available to initiate a response in the event of an oil spill. Compliance with the above is demonstrated by:
    - Facility Transfer: Conducting the transfer at a facility regulated by 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 154 and completing a Declaration of Inspection prior to conducting the transfer.
    - Vessel: Submitting a “lightering plan” to the Captain of the Port that is stamped and signed as reviewed by the Coast Guard and completing a Declaration of Inspection prior to conducting the transfer and provides information on the on scene response capabilities and,

- Ensuring a vessel meeting the Alaska Petroleum Distributors and Transporters (APD&T) “Agreement for Compliance” is present, or
- A vessel with the following capabilities;
  - Transfer hoses and portable pumps sufficient to off-load the largest cargo tank in 24 hours of continuous operation,
  - Containment boom in a quantity equal to three times the vessel length (compared to twice the vessel length as specified for the AMPD in 33 CFR §155),
  - Oil recovery devices with an effective daily recovery capacity (EDRC) equal to 50% of the MMPD (the lesser of 1250 barrels per day or 5% of the cargo capacity), and
  - Temporary storage reserved in the barge capacity or through use of voids and ballast tanks equal to 10% of the two largest cargo compartments.
- When transferring to a facility, the vessel shall ensure a single containment boom is deployed around the vessel unless tides, currents and weather preclude this from being done safely and or from being effective.
- The master of the vessel transferring oil to a facility or vessel will not conduct oil transfer operations when weather conditions preclude the ability to conduct a safe oil spill response.
- If oil transfer operations are conducted at night, operations will only be conducted if lighting meets requirements of 33CFR156.118.
- The vessel will not engage in simultaneous multiple vessel transfer to or from two cargo recipients (i.e. vessel and facility).

The vessel conducting offshore lightering operations shall provide 48 hours advance notice of transfer to the Coast Guard Captain of the Port Western Alaska via e-mail at [sectoranchoragearrivals@uscg.mil](mailto:sectoranchoragearrivals@uscg.mil) or via phone at (907) 428-4200.



Additional information on the WA-APC and the “Network” may be obtained at [www.ak-mprn.org](http://www.ak-mprn.org)

Network: 24 hour Operations Center

Phone: (907) 463-4603

e-mail: [operations@ak-mprn.org](mailto:operations@ak-mprn.org)

Coast Guard Captain of the Port Western Alaska

Phone: (907) 428-4200

email: [sectoranchoragearrivals@uscg.mil](mailto:sectoranchoragearrivals@uscg.mil)