



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: September 27, 2016

In reply refer to: M-16-25

Ms. Kate R. Duffy
President
Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services
1611 North Kent St., Suite 605
Arlington, VA 22209

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On September 13, 2016, we adopted our safety study, *An Assessment of the Effectiveness of the US Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service System*.¹ Additional information about this topic and the resulting recommendations may be found in the study, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number SS-16/01.

As a result of this safety study, we issued 21 recommendations, including 17 to the US Coast Guard, 1 to the American Pilots' Association, 2 to the American Waterways Operators, and the following recommendation to the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services:

¹ *An Assessment of the Effectiveness of the US Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service System*, September 13, 2016, SS-16/01.

M-16-25

Work with the US Coast Guard to modify regulations, procedures, and equipment standards, as necessary, to ensure that vessels engaged in towing operations broadcast accurate automatic identification system information regarding tow size and tow configuration as well as vessel size.

Chairman HART, Vice Chairman DINH-ZARR, and Members SUMWALT and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov. If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Chairman