



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Safety Recommendation

Log M-357A

Date: December 5, 1989

In reply refer to: M-89-146

Mr. Eric G. Scharf
Executive Director
National Association of Passenger
Vessel Owners
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The National Transportation Safety Board has been committed to improving the safety of passenger vessels carrying U.S. passengers from U.S. ports. The Safety Board recently completed a study that reviewed safety issues for three broad groups of vessels: domestic passenger vessels, foreign flag passenger vessels operating from U.S. ports and carrying U.S. passengers, and some State-regulated domestic passenger vessels.^{1/}

One of the safety issues examined in the study is the need for manuals for crewmembers that explain the owner's and operator's policies and procedures for safety training in areas critical to their own and their passengers' safety and survival in the event of an emergency.

Comprehensive manuals for emergency operations and procedures is one approach to improve safety operations of passenger vessels. The Safety Board is aware that the National Association of Passenger Vessel Owners (NAPVO) recently released a manual to address the safety program needs of small passenger vessels. A major purpose of this manual is to provide a framework for passenger vessel owners and operators to develop and write a formal company training program to improve the safety level of operation and preparation for emergencies.

^{1/} National Transportation Safety Board. 1989. Safety study: Passenger vessels operating from U.S. ports. NTSB/SS-89/01. Washington, DC. 175 p.

Because crewmembers must understand minimum safety operational and emergency procedures, the Safety Board believes that the U.S. Coast Guard should provide the necessary guidance to ensure a minimum level of standards for crew training before crewmembers are put in emergency situations. The Safety Board also believes that all passenger vessel owners and operators should provide an operational and emergency manual explaining the company's policies and procedures to crewmembers so that the actions they are expected to take in an emergency are known and not expected to be learned during an emergency.

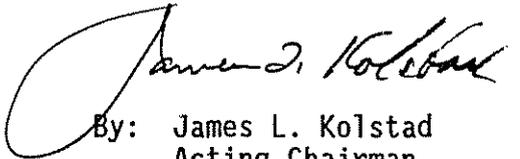
Therefore, as a result of its study, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the National Association of Passenger Vessel Owners:

In conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard, develop emergency manuals for crewmembers explaining the owner's and operator's policies and procedures and to ensure that crewmembers have basic safety training in those areas critical to their own and their passenger's safety and survival. These areas include firefighting and man overboard drills, use of critical lifesaving equipment, rules of the road, navigation principles, and emergency communication requirements. (Class II, Priority Action) (M-89-146)

Also as a result of the safety study, the National Transportation Safety Board issued Safety Recommendations M-89-111 through -145 to the U.S. Coast Guard, M-89-147 and -148 to the Cruise Lines International Association, M-89-149 to the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, M-89-150 to cruise vessel owners and operators, M-89-151 to Washington State Ferries, and M-89-152 to the Governor and legislative leaders of the State of Washington.

The National Transportation Safety Board is an independent Federal agency with statutory responsibility "...to initiate and conduct special studies and special investigations on matters pertaining to safety in transportation...." (Public Law 93-633). The Safety Board is vitally interested in any actions taken as a result of its safety recommendations and would appreciate a response from you regarding action taken or contemplated with respect to the recommendation in this letter. Please refer to Safety Recommendation M-89-146 in your reply.

KOLSTAD, Acting Chairman, BURNETT, LAUBER, NALL, and DICKINSON, Members, concurred in this recommendation.


By: James L. Kolstad
Acting Chairman