



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Baltimore

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MARITIME SAFETY & SECURITY BULLETIN 19-09

Coast Guard Sector Baltimore Increasing Awareness of Assistance Towing Vessel Licensing Requirements

In order to improve safety for mariners operating in the Baltimore Captain of the Port Zone, the Coast Guard is reminding recreational boaters, professional mariners and marina operators of the regulations pertaining to the operation of assistance towing vessels.

As per 46 CFR 15.410 (Licensed Individuals for Assistance Towing Vessels), *“Every assistance towing vessel must be under the direction and control of a licensed individual authorized to engage in assistance towing under the provisions of 46 CFR 10.482.”*

46 CFR 10.482 (Assistance Towing) further expounds on the towing endorsement requirement and states *“The endorsement applies to all licenses except those for master and mate (pilot) of towing vessels and those for master or mate authorizing service on inspected vessels over 200 gross tons. Holders of any of these licenses may engage in assistance towing within the scope of the licenses and without the endorsement.”*

Failure to have an assistance towing vessel under the control of a properly licensed individual may result in a first offense penalty of \$1000 and carry a potential maximum penalty of \$27, 500.

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