



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Updated Marine Radio Inspection Regulations for Great Lakes Vessels

This Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) is intended to provide notice of updated regulations for CG Marine Inspectors, owners, and operators of Great Lakes vessels that fall under the provisions of the Great Lakes Agreement (GLA). The GLA was a treaty between the United States and Canada that, among other things, established requirements regarding the “usage and maintenance of radiocommunications equipment for safety purposes aboard” certain vessels navigating on the Great Lakes. These requirements are codified primarily in subpart T of the FCC regulations in 47 CFR § 80. Because the GLA will cease to be effective on November 2, 2023, pursuant to Canada’s notice of termination on November 2, 2022, the FCC took expedited action to amend applicable regulations to remove the references to the GLA and maintain the applicability of rules in the Great Lakes. This will ensure that regulations continue to promote the safety of life and property on the Great Lakes, provide regulatory stability going forward, and accurately reflect the GLA status. A copy of the Order is attached, and a linked copy is available [here](#).

As stated in the order, the FCC found it necessary and in the public interest to amend the rule requiring inspection of the radiotelephone installation at least once every **13 months** by extending the time period to once every **48 months**. **Certifications of inspection that are valid on the effective date of the GLA termination dated between October 2, 2022 and November 2, 2023—will be valid for 48 months from the date of inspection, as opposed to 13 months.** This alignment will promote uniformity and more closely conform to the current needs of the industry and the realistic practices of both the United States and Canada in maintaining safety for vessels navigating on the Great Lakes. **As such, each vessel will add 48 months from the date of the inspection to calculate their new expiration date as found in 47 CFR § 80.953.** For example, if the FCC radio inspection was conducted on May 1, 2023 the new expiration date will be May 1, 2027. Vessels that are applicable to Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) will remain unchanged and continue to receive annual exams.

This MSIB is provided for information purposes only and does not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational, or material requirements. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Mark Bobal at (216) 902-6052.

Sincerely,

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Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District
Acting