



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



CG-5431
Office of Vessel Activities
Domestic Compliance Division

MI Notice 06-11
October 19, 2011

Marine Inspection Notice (MIN)

HILLERSAFE FIRE DETECTION SYSTEMS ON UNINSPECTED TOWING VESSELS

Marine Inspection Notice (MIN) 01-10 issued on June 8, 2010 alerted Marine Inspectors, Towing Vessel Examiners, and the industry that HillerSAFE Fire and Bilge Flooding Alarm systems installed on board uninspected towing vessels did not meet the requirements of Subchapter C.

Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 27, Subpart B – Fire Protection Measures for Towing Vessels, establishes requirements for fire detection on towing vessels. Specifically, 46 CFR 27.203(a) requires each detector, each control panel, and each fire alarm (the fire detection system) to be either Coast Guard approved or listed by an independent testing laboratory. The HillerSAFE control panel is neither.

While the HillerSAFE control panel was tested by Retlif Testing Laboratory, this lab neither conducts the required fire detection component tests nor provides a listing service for fire detection equipment.

For the past year, Hiller Systems Inc. (www.hillersystemsinc.com) worked to conduct the required testing of the HillerSAFE control panel to achieve Coast Guard type approval or listing by an independent testing laboratory. Because certain features required by UL standards were missing, testing on the panel was halted. Hiller reports that they have stopped selling this panel for use on U.S. flag vessels, and are working to produce a panel which will be both UL listed and Coast Guard type approved as a replacement. Industry is encouraged to contact Hiller directly on this issue.

As testing on the existing panel has stopped, compliance with 46 CFR 27.203(a) is not possible. Coast Guard Inspectors/ Examiners should issue requirements to vessels to replace the HillerSAFE panel with one meeting the regulatory requirements as directed by COMDT message 19OCT2011 with a due date of not later than January 1, 2013. Towing vessels previously examined and issued decals should also be issued a requirement to replace the panel by January 1, 2013.

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The existence of this deficiency, however, shall not preclude the issuance nor cause the removal of a Coast Guard issued decal before January 1, 2013. After which, decals should be removed if vessels are found not in compliance.

With potentially over 1,000 towing vessels with the HillerSAFE control panel installed on board, there could be supply & demand issues in replacing the panel. Extensions may be granted by the OCMI if a vessel has tried in earnest to replace the panel, but due to a lack of, or backordering of parts, compliance is not practicable by January 1, 2013.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to the Office of Vessel Activities, Domestic Compliance Division (CG-5431) at CG5431@uscg.mil or 202-372-1224.