

CIRCULAR

Circular Ref: 2025/11

U.S. Coast Guard / NPFC Impacted by U.S. Government Shutdown

The U.S. Government has entered a shutdown following Congress's failure to pass funding legislation. A shutdown suspends federal activities deemed non-essential, while essential functions such as search & rescue, emergency response, and law enforcement continue uninterrupted. This development affects several U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) operations which may directly impact your vessels trading to the United States and your communications with the USCG.

The purpose of this circular is to update you on the current status of relevant USCG divisions as of opening of business, 3rd October 2025. ShorelineHudson will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide further updates as necessary.

Certificate of Financial Responsibility (COFR)

- The Vessel Certification Division remains closed during the shutdown.
- The eCOFR website will remain online but is not actively managed or updated.
- COFR applications (new, renewals, supplemental) will continue to be received, logged, and assigned numbers, but certificates will not be issued until after the shutdown ends.
- The eCOFR status spreadsheet on the NPFC website will not be updated until government funding is restored.

Additional Guidance from the U.S. Coast Guard (Vessel Certification Division)

When contacted, Vessel Certification staff will:

- Review documentation received and confirm receipt of specific documents.
- Advise what is still needed to issue the COFR.
- Confirm that applications will be processed strictly in order of receipt and in accordance with internal USCG directives.
- Clear or not clear a vessel only when contacted by enforcement personnel.

Support availability

- Verbal assistance will be provided to enforcement officials primarily during normal business hours Monday through Friday between 0700EST and 1630EST at (202) 795-6130 or the NPFC's Command Duty Officer at 202-494-9118.
- After-hours support will be available to enforcement personnel if required.
- Ensure your documentation is complete and submitted early to avoid complications at the port of entry.

ShorelineHudson Recommendation

- Continue to file all new and renewal COFR applications, including required documentation and fee payments, to secure your place in the processing queue.
- Note that while COFR certificates will not be issued until after the shutdown, local USCG enforcement may grant verbal clearance for vessels with complete applications when Notices of Arrival are filed.
- Ensure your documentation is complete and submitted early to avoid complications at the port of entry.

For assistance during this period, please contact the ShorelineHudson team at:

shore@shoreline.bm

Many thanks,



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