



DEP FACT SHEET

Spill Reporting for Large Commercial Passenger Vessels

Date: September 7, 2004

Contact: (207) 287-3901

What is considered a LARGE COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VESSEL in Maine?

In Maine, a large commercial passenger vessel (LCPV) is defined as a commercial passenger vessel that provides overnight accommodations for 250 or more passengers for hire.

What types of spills from large commercial passenger vessels are subject to Maine regulation?

The State of Maine regulates the following activities separately from federal jurisdiction.

- Spills of oil or hazardous materials to the waters of the State (38 M.R.S.A §543 and 1318-B).
- Spills or discharges of treated or untreated sewage (blackwater or a combination of graywater and blackwater) inside a federally designated "No Discharge Area" (38 M.R.S.A §423-D).
- Spills or discharges of untreated or poorly treated sewage (untreated or poorly treated blackwater or a combination of untreated or poorly treated graywater and blackwater) that exceeds federal discharge limits (38 M.R.S.A §423-D).

What should the captain of a large commercial passenger vessel do if he/she discovers a spill?

For Oil Spills – Immediately call 800-482-0777

For Hazardous Material Spills – Immediately call 800-452-4664

Your call will be answered by the Department of Environmental Protection or the State Police.

Be prepared to provide the following information:

- The name of the vessel.
- The location of the vessel.
- The location of the spill.
- The nature of the spill (gas, diesel, other fuels or oils, type of hazardous material).
- Any response action taken.
- Any other agencies notified.

Also notify the local Harbormaster and the National Response Center 800-424-8802

For Sewage Spills – Immediately call 800-452-1942

Your call will be answered by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Be prepared to provide the following information:

- The name of the vessel.
- The location of the vessel.
- The location of the spill.
- The nature of the spill.

Also notify the local Harbormaster, and the Coast Guard.

For Oil Spills – Immediately call 800-482-0777

For Hazardous Material Spills – Immediately call 800-452-4664

For Sewage Spills – Immediately call 800-452-1942

Why is reporting an oil spill important?

- Spills of oil or other fuels can be an immediate health threat due to explosion hazards, or toxicity.
- Spills of oil are most easily contained and cleaned up if reported early.
- State Law, 38 M.R.S.A §550 provides amnesty from fines or penalties for those responsible for an oil discharge if the discharge is reported within two (2) hours, and cleaned up to the Department's satisfaction.

Why is reporting a sewage spill important?

- Spills of sewage can pose an immediate health by contaminating local shellfish beds and beaches.
- REPORTING IS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW (38 M.R.S.A. §423-D).
- Reporting spills promptly can protect you from fines or penalties associated with the spill.

What other laws might impact large commercial passenger vessels in Maine waters?

Discharges of oil, hazardous materials, and sewage sludge are prohibited in Maine's waters.

Starting in 2005, some harbors may be federally designated No Discharge Areas (NDA). Discharge of any blackwater into a NDA is prohibited.

Starting in 2006, LCPVs will be required to meet stringent discharge standards if they wish to discharge graywater or a combination of blackwater and graywater to the waters of the state. Further, the vessel must notify the DEP that it intends to discharge and meet the standards under a general permit

Engine exhaust emissions may be regulated under air emissions opacity regulations.

DEP Contact Information

| If you have questions about: | Contact | Telephone | Email |
|---|------------------|----------------|--|
| Laws Relating to Sewage from Large Commercial Passenger Vessels | Pam Parker | (207) 287-7905 | Pamela.d.parker@maine.gov |
| | Hetty Richardson | (207) 287-7799 | Hetty.I.richardson@maine.gov |
| Laws Relating to Oil Spills | Barbara Parker | (207) 287-7752 | Barbara.t.parker@maine.gov |
| Laws Relating to Hazardous Materials Spills | John James | (207) 287-7866 | John.james@maine.gov |

If you prefer to write, all of the above staff can be reached here:

**Maine Department of Environmental Protection
State House Station 17
Augusta, ME 04333-0017**

Please be sure to visit the DEP website on this topic at <http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/topic/vessel/index.htm>

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