



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Statutory Amendment of Load Line Exclusions

On February 8, 2016, the President signed the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (H.R. Bill 4188) into law. Section 612 of that Act amended the load line exclusion provisions in section 5102(b) of Title 46 United States Code (46 U.S.C.), by adding a new exclusion pertaining to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 amends 46 U.S.C. 5102(b) by adding a thirteenth exclusion provision:

“(13) a vessel of the United States on a domestic voyage that is within the Gulf of Mexico and operating not more than 15 nautical miles seaward of the base line from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured between Crystal Bay, Florida and Hudson Creek, Florida.”

The above statutory amendment permits non-load line vessels to transit up to 15 nautical miles seaward of the baseline from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured, between Crystal Bay and Hudson Creek, Florida (which are referenced in the *U.S. Coast Pilot 5, chapter 5*).

For more information, please contact Mr. Thomas Jordan, Office of Design and Engineering Standards (CG-ENG) at (202) 372-1370 or thomas.d.jordan@uscg.mil.

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