



# Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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## Whistleblower Protection Final Rule Published

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Coast Guard today published a final rule updating regulations providing whistleblower protections for uniformed Coast Guard members.

Coast Guard regulations prohibit any person from taking, withholding or threatening any personnel action against a uniformed member of the Coast Guard as reprisal for making or preparing a protected communication.

The changes broaden protections for uniformed Coast Guard members by designating other persons and organizations, including the Coast Guard Investigative Service, in addition to members of Congress or an inspector general, as eligible to receive protected communications from uniformed Coast Guard members. The changes also expand the subject matter of protected communications to include information that the uniformed member reasonably believes constitutes evidence of sexual harassment and discrimination, among other subjects.

This rule becomes effective April 20, 2011 unless substantive adverse public comment is received by February 22, 2011.

The rulemaking and its related materials may be viewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-2002-13016.

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