

Requirements for Vessels Returning from Cuba

Vessel owners and operators must ensure the security of their vessel while in Cuban ports. As delegated, section 70110 of Title 46 U.S. Code authorizes the Coast Guard to impose conditions of entry on all vessels arriving in U.S. waters from ports which the Coast Guard has not found to maintain effective anti-terrorism measures. Until the Coast Guard verifies the security posture of Cuban ports, vessels arriving to the U.S. from Cuba must implement additional security measures while in Cuban ports. Owners/operators are ultimately responsible for maintaining vessel security and ensuring that no unauthorized persons or goods are brought into the United States. Failure to do so may subject the owner/operators to criminal or civil penalties, to include vessel seizure.

Security Requirement for Recreational Vessels:

At a minimum, owner/operators of each vessel which enters a Cuban port must conduct a full search of the vessel before departure back to the United States.

Reporting Requirements for Recreational Vessels:

- Owner/Operators arriving from Cuba must notify the Coast Guard of their vessel's arrival 24 hours prior to entry by email (preferred), phone, or marine band VHF.
- Report all security actions taken to the local U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) responsible for the port of arrival PRIOR to the vessel's arrival into U.S. waters.
- Depending on the vessel's port of entry, contact the appropriate Coast Guard Sector:
 - Sector Miami: D07-DG-SECMIAMI-SCC@uscg.mil / phone: 305.535.4316
 - Sector Key West: SKW@uscg.mil / phone: 305.292.8727
 - Sector St. Petersburg: D07-SMB-SectorSPCC@uscg.mil / phone: 727.824.7506
- Contact information for other COTPs and Sectors can be found by accessing the Port Directory on the Coast Guard's Homeport website (<https://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do>).

Vessels arriving from Cuba will be examined to verify compliance with security requirements and to verify the validity of owner/operators permit to enter Cuban Territorial Seas. This permit is required by the Coast Guard under Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 107. [Note 1] Owner/Operators should be prepared to:

- Wait for an available Coast Guard boarding team; and
- Be directed to a designated location.

Failure to comply with the above requirements may result in delay or denial of entry into the United States. Owner/operators are reminded they must still comply with applicable requirements of other federal agencies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Security/Reporting Requirements for Commercial Vessels:

- If you own or operate a passenger vessel that is required to comply with the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) or International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) and are required to obtain a permit from the Coast Guard under 33 CFR part 107, you must follow the security measures outlined in the Coast Guard's Port Security Advisory 3-15. This applies to passenger vessels carrying more than 12 passengers, including at least one passenger for hire, on an international voyage. The advisory can be found at <https://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do>.
- All vessel owner/operators are reminded to review the requirements in 33 CFR part 160 regarding provision of an Advance Notice of Arrival (ANOVA) to the National Vessel Movement Center. This includes U.S. flagged vessels in commercial service arriving from a foreign port and foreign vessels in commercial service.