



Commander
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern New England
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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 10-17

Date: May 2, 2017
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Certificate of Documentation Renewal

My office has recently received reports of commercial entities directly contacting vessel owners and offering to manage the Certificate of Documentation renewal process for a fee. Some of the notices these companies send could lead a vessel owner to believe the correspondence is coming directly from the Coast Guard's National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC). These companies are also present in internet search results for the NVDC and for Certificate of Documentation renewal.

While using these companies is an option, the Coast Guard does not endorse any of them, and they do not operate on behalf of the Coast Guard in any way. Any fees charged or agreements offered by such companies are in no way associated with the NVDC certification process, and these companies are not authorized to issue official NVDC Certificates of Documentation or any other forms of documentation that permit operation of a vessel.

The NVDC, located in Falling Waters, West Virginia, is the only entity authorized to issue Certificates of Documentation (CODs). This documentation is required for vessels engaged in commercial trade and is optional for vessels five net tons and over engaged in recreational use/activities. Persons interested in conducting business directly with NVDC should visit <https://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/>.

Persons interested in conducting business directly with NVDC should visit the official NVDC website or contact the NVDC at (800) 799-8362 or (304) 271-2400. Phone hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Phones are not manned on Thursdays. Certificate of Documentation renewal requests are accepted at VDC-PF-NVDCRENEWALS@USCG.MIL.

Questions regarding the information in this bulletin should be directed to my Prevention Department at (207) 899-6279 or SecNNE-Prevention-Domestic@uscg.mil.

M. A. Baroody
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port
Sector Northern New England