



THE TUGBOAT, TOWBOAT AND BARGE INDUSTRY

A LEADER IN MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

For nearly 25 years, The American Waterways Operators and its member companies have been leaders in marine safety and environmental stewardship. AWO's top priority is to lead and support members in continuously improving safety, security and environmental protection. AWO members have demonstrated their commitment to safety leadership through voluntary initiatives and partnership with government to protect safety of life, preserve our marine environment, and maintain the integrity of maritime commerce.

THE RESPONSIBLE CARRIER PROGRAM® AND SUBCHAPTER M

In 1994, AWO developed the Responsible Carrier Program® as a code of best practices for member companies. Member companies use the program to develop company-specific safety programs that meet or exceed applicable laws and regulations, while being practical enough to reflect a company's unique operational needs. In 1998, AWO instituted a third-party external audit mechanism and in 2000, compliance with the RCP became a requirement for AWO membership.

In concert with the U.S. Coast Guard, AWO was instrumental in the passage of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004, which directed the Coast Guard to establish a comprehensive inspection regime for towing vessels. AWO worked with the Coast Guard for more than a decade to develop the new regulations, which were published in June 2016 at 46 CFR Subchapter M. The regulations raise safety standards throughout the industry, incorporating safeguards that responsible carriers have already put in place and ensuring that the more than 5,000 affected U.S.-flagged towing vessels meet baseline standards to protect lives, the environment and property.

In November 2016, AWO's RCP was accepted by the Coast Guard as an existing safety management system that meets the requirements of Subchapter M, a recognition of AWO's safety leadership and an important milestone in facilitating industry compliance with the new regulations.

THE COAST GUARD-AWO SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Established in 1995, the Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership is the oldest public-private partnership between the U.S. Coast Guard and its stakeholders. Since its establishment, the partnership has launched more than 40 cooperative initiatives to improve safety and environmental protection. The Partnership's many accomplishments include:

- Recommendations, informed by comprehensive analysis, to reduce towing vessel crew fatalities;
- Establishment of a first-of-its-kind industry training program for Coast Guard Academy cadets; and
- Leadership of the Towing Vessel Bridging Program, under which thousands of towing vessel examinations have been conducted to facilitate the transition to towing vessel inspection.

SAFETY STATISTICS

In 2015, AWO implemented a web-based Safety Statistics Reporting Program to help member companies foster a culture of safety and strive toward continuous improvement. The program provides a simple, confidential means for tracking vessel crew hours; crew fatalities; recordable injuries; lost-time injuries; falls overboard; reportable spills of all types; and volume of spills in gallons. The program gives members access to reports and tools that allow them to benchmark their company data against other companies in their sector and AWO's membership overall.

SAFETY COMMITTEES

AWO's Coastal and Interregion Safety Committees provide a critical forum for dialogue and discussion among AWO member health and safety professionals to support members in striving for continuous improvement in safety, security and environmental stewardship. Safety committee meetings encourage member company safety experts to share their experiences and learn from each other as they work to implement a culture of safety in their companies and throughout the industry.

The tugboat, towboat and barge industry advocate since 1944.