

Risk Assessment:

In order to strengthen the RCP and gain Coast Guard approval as a TSMS under the forthcoming Subchapter M regulations, the RCP was updated to include risk assessment procedures. The goal of these procedures is to systematically assess and manage identified risks to onboard personnel, vessels, and the environment. The procedures are required to include:

- a) Risk discovery
- b) Risk evaluation
- c) Risk control measures to establish appropriate safeguards to reduce risk to an appropriate level
- d) Procedures to identify, assess, and manage the risk of hazards introduced by new or non-routine changes to: equipment, staffing (ashore or afloat), or procedures

A formal risk assessment process allows companies to proactively identify specific operational risks, gather the relevant company experts together to think of measures to mitigate those risks, and then implement those measures. A formal Risk Assessment is related to other risk assessment tools such as Job Safety Analyses (JSAs), Toolbox Talks, pre-job huddles, and last minute risk assessments. However, it is not the same thing, and shouldn't be used interchangeably with those other tools. Risk assessments take a proactive and comprehensive approach to looking at risks that will help make a company's operations safer.