Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership Working Group

On

Crew Endurance

September 26, 2007

Background

Under the auspices of the Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership (currently formalized in a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND THE AMERICAN WATERWAYS OPERATORS REGARDING THEIR QUALITY PARTNERSHIP), the Coast Guard and AWO have worked together to promote crew alertness in the 24-hour-a-day environment of the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry since 1999. Since that time, the Coast Guard and AWO have collaborated in the development and roll-out of the Crew Alertness Campaign and Stay Alert for Safety brochure, conducted research into the application of the Crew Endurance Management System (CEMS) to the barge and towing industry, and worked together to educate AWO member companies on CEMS principles.

Since the establishment of the formal CEMS program, more than 130 organizations now have trained CEMS coaches on staff and over 1600 coaches have been certified throughout the United States and internationally. However, companies are at very different stages of CEMS implementation, with only a limited number of companies implementing the process completely and continuously. In the meantime, high-profile issues related to fatigue and the human element, including travel time, watchstanding requirements and hours of service, have been voiced as concerns to Congress, AWO and the Coast Guard, and the linkage between these issues and CEMS needs to be explored and clarified . CEMS can be leveraged to address these and other human element issues faced by the AWO membership and the rest of the maritime industry.

Objective

At the Coast Guard –AWO Safety Partnership National Quality Steering Committee (QSC) meeting on August 1, 2007, the QSC agreed that the Coast Guard-AWO working group should be reconvened to refresh our collective vision of the future of CEMS and its linkage to such issues as travel time, watchstanding, and work hours; develop a marketing plan to promote that vision; support industry implementation of CEMS consistent with the vision; and develop metrics for measuring the effectiveness of CEMS.

Working Group Tasks

The Coast Guard-AWO Crew Endurance Working Group will conduct the following tasks:

- 1) Lay out a vision of the future of CEMS and the Coast Guard-AWO goals for CEMS implementation;
- 2) Clarify the linkage between CEMS and such issues as travel time, watchstanding, and work hours, and propose an approach to integrating CEMS principles into the treatment of those issues;
- 3) Develop a plan to promote the vision and goals developed per tasks 1 and 2;
- Develop a plan to support industry implementation of CEMS consistent with the vision. In developing the plan, the working group should first build an understanding of successful CEMS implementation efforts in the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry, as well as hurdles for companies practicing or attempting to practice CEMS;
- 5) Develop insightful, meaningful metrics for measuring the effectiveness of CEMS.

Exemption from the Federal Advisory Committee Act

The Working Group is intended to be exempt from coverage by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and is established and will be operated as a non-FACA committee. Specifically:

- The Coast Guard will not in any way manage or control AWO's selection of persons or groups to represent AWO in the Working Group;
- In carrying out the Working Group's tasks, Working Group members will set their own agenda which will not be determined or controlled by the Coast Guard;
- The Coast Guard will not fund the participation of AWO or AWO's representatives in the Working Group;
- The parties do not expect and the Coast Guard does not solicit consensus advice or recommendations from the Working Group.

Membership

Working group members will include:

Team Leaders:

Jennifer Carpenter, AWO LCDR Ben Hawkins, CG-3PSE-1

Team Members:	Dave Brown, Ingram Barge Company
	Bob Clinton, AWO
	Ron Corigliano, Campbell Transportation Company
	Ken Davidson, American Commercial Lines
	Tom Elkowitz, Penn Maritime, Inc.
	Jim Farley, Kirby Inland Marine, LP
	George Foster, JB Marine Service
	Jim Gillen, Crowley Marine Services
	Chuck King, Buffalo Marine Service
	LCDR Vivianne Louie, CG-3PSE-1
	Jo Ann Salyers, Salyers Solutions
	Bill Stewart, MEMCO Barge Line
	Paul Swensen, Moran Towing Corporation

Timeline

The working group will hold its first meeting in November 2007. The group will provide a report to the Coast Guard-AWO National Quality Steering Committee and the AWO Executive Committee at their February 2008 meetings.

Thomas A. Allegretti President & CEO The American Waterways Operators RDML Brian M. Salerno Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security, and Stewardship U.S. Coast Guard