



NATIONAL V-DEPARTMENT

"RBS ALERT NOTICE"

*** This Notice is intended to be read by ALL USCG Auxiliary and USPS qualified Vessel Examiners ***

In accordance with The Vessel Safety Check Manual, COMDTINST 16796.8, the vessel safety check (VSC) is intended to serve as a "prevention through education, outreach, and volunteer compliance" activity and to help recreational boaters gain a respect for the boating environment. Generally, any recreational boat is eligible for a VSC by a certified Vessel Examiner.

Per the Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST 16790.1G, Commercial Fishing Vessels, Uninspected Passenger Vessels (vessels carrying not more than six passengers, including at least one passenger-for-hire and of less than 100 gross tons), and Uninspected Towing Vessels (commercial vessel engaged in or intending to engage in pulling, pushing or hauling alongside or any combination of pulling, pushing, or hauling) are not part of the recreational boating Vessel Safety Check program. Examinations of these vessels require that an Auxiliarist hold a specific letter of designation from the Sector Commander/Captain of the Port/Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections under whom they work and from whom they have received orders to conduct such examinations.

The best course of action for an RBS VE when walking the docks for potential exams is to be upfront with the vessel owner/operator: "Is your vessel at anytime engaged in commercial activities?" If yes, then the RBS VE will explain that the vessel should have an exam that covers that category of vessel. It is important that the owner/operator understand the difference between vessel examinations for Recreational and Commercial Vessels. Multiple decals are authorized only on the commercial side. The vessel and crew must be appropriately fitted and manned to the commercial activity that the vessel is engaged in at the given time.

In an effort to provide consistent education and compliance of Federal Regulations within the Commercial Vessel (Commercial Fishing, Uninspected Passenger Vessels and Uninspected Towing Vessels) field of activity, the Recreational Vessel Examiner, after determining the owner/operator is engaged in Commercial endeavors (full time or part time) and in lieu of awarding a Vessel Safety Check decal, should refer the owner/operator to their nearest Coast Guard Sector.

U.S. Power Squadrons qualified Vessel Examiners are not authorized to conduct VSCs on any commercial vessel.

Any questions should be directed to the V-Department, DVC-VE.