



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU HIGHLIGHTS RECENT UPDATES TO FCC SHIP SAFETY CERTIFICATES (FCC FORMS 806, 824, 827, and 829)

By this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) notifies all FCC-licensed vessel inspectors (inspectors) and U.S. compulsory vessels that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the FCC Ship Safety Certificates (FCC Forms 806, 824, 827, or 829). The FCC Forms have been updated and are now publicly available for use, effective immediately.¹ However, recognizing that the maritime community will need time to transition to the new FCC Forms, the Bureau will also accept the voluntary use of the previous version of the FCC Forms until November 27, 2024.² Further, all FCC Forms 824, 827, and 829 issued on or before November 27, 2024, will remain in force until the date specified on the FCC Ship Safety Certificate; because FCC Form 806 does not explicitly provide a blank space for the inspector to write in such a date, all FCC Forms 806 will remain in force for one year from the date of the inspection.

BACKGROUND. When inspecting a vessel's radio equipment, FCC-licensed inspectors complete the appropriate FCC Ship Safety Certificate to certify that a vessel complies with any of the following, if applicable: the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (The Communications Act),³ the Commission's rules,⁴ the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act,⁵ or the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974.⁶

Previously, the Bureau issued a Public Notice on July 15, 2024, notifying FCC-licensed inspectors and U.S. compulsory vessels traveling internationally of recent amendments to SOLAS, which included updates to certain SOLAS ship safety certificates that impacted FCC Forms 806 and 829.⁷ That Public Notice announced, in pertinent part, that the Bureau was in the process of obtaining OMB approval

¹ Copies of the updated FCC Ship Safety Certificates are available on the Commission's website. FCC, *Current FCC Forms*, <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> (last visited Oct. 10, 2024). The updates reflect that the OMB control number (3060-0228) associated with the FCC Forms expires in August 2027.

² The OMB control number for the previous FCC Forms was valid until August 31, 2024.

³ FCC, *The Communications Act of 1934*, <https://transition.fcc.gov/Reports/1934new.pdf> (last visited Oct. 10, 2024).

⁴ National Archives and Records Administration, *Electronic Code of Federal Regulations*, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-80?toc=1> (last visited Oct. 10, 2024).

⁵ Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act, Pub. L. No. 92-63, 85 Stat 164 (1971), <https://www.congress.gov/92/statute/STATUTE-85/STATUTE-85-Pg164.pdf>.

⁶ In addition to the aforementioned FCC Forms, FCC-licensed inspectors are required to enter the results of the inspection in the ship's log. 47 CFR § 80.59(a)(2). Further, the vessel's owner, operator, or ship's master must certify in the ship's log that the inspection was satisfactory. *Id.*

⁷ *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Highlights Recent Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, Affecting Compulsory Vessels and Vessel Inspectors*, Public Notice, DA 24-682 (WTB 2024).

of the revisions to the FCC Forms through the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA).⁸ The Bureau stated that it would issue a separate Public Notice when the revised FCC Forms became available. Since then, the Bureau has obtained OMB approval for the forms referenced in that Public Notice, FCC Forms 806 and 829, as well as for FCC Forms 824 and 827.⁹ The OMB control number (3060-0228) associated with FCC Forms 806, 824, 827, and 829 is valid for the next three years until August 2027.¹⁰

FCC FORMS 806 and 829. The Bureau has revised FCC Form 806, which is entitled “Certificate of Compliance with the Provisions of the Radio Provisions of the International Convention of the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (as Amended) and/or Subpart W,”¹¹ and FCC Form 829, which is entitled “Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate.”¹² These revisions are based on the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO’s)¹³ recent updates to performance standards and amendments to SOLAS pertaining to ship safety certificates.¹⁴ These changes were adopted by the IMO in April 2022 by way of Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) Resolution 496(105),¹⁵ which updated various SOLAS ship safety certificates and therefore required updates to FCC Form 806 and FCC Form 829. These FCC Forms are intended to mirror the applicable SOLAS ship safety certificates.¹⁶ Both FCC Forms are used by FCC-licensed inspectors when inspecting a vessel’s radio equipment and certifying that a vessel complies with the SOLAS radiocommunication requirements; FCC Form 806 is also used to certify that a vessel complies with Subpart W of the Commission’s Rules in Part 80.¹⁷

FCC FORMS 824 and 827. Regarding the remaining FCC Ship Safety Certificates, the Bureau updated FCC Form 824, which is entitled, “Communications Act Safety Radiotelephony Certificate,”¹⁸

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ OMB, *Information Collection Request (ICR) Package*, https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewICR?ref_nbr=202407-3060-001 (last visited Oct. 10, 2024).

¹⁰ As noted on each of the aforementioned FCC Forms, the public is not required to complete an FCC Ship Safety Certificate that does not display a valid OMB control number.

¹¹ FCC, *Certificate of Compliance with the Radio Provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (as Amended) and/or Subpart W*, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/806.pdf> (last visited Oct. 10, 2024).

¹² FCC, *Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate*, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/829.pdf> (last visited Oct. 10, 2024)

¹³ The IMO is a United Nations specialized agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping, among others. IMO, *International Maritime Organization*, <https://www.imo.org/> (last visited Oct. 10, 2024).

¹⁴ MSC Resolution 496(105) modernized the SOLAS provisions regarding radiocommunications and updated various SOLAS ship safety certificates. IMO, *Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life At Sea, 1974 (MSC Resolution 496(105))*, [https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.496\(105\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.496(105).pdf) (last visited Oct. 10, 2024).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ See Consolidated Text of the Annex to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the 1988 Protocol Relating Thereto, Part B (Surveys and Certificates), Regulation 15 (Forms of certificates and records of equipment), which provides, in pertinent part, that certificates “shall be drawn up in the form corresponding to the models given in the appendix to the annex to the present Convention.” Int’l Maritime Org. [IMO] SOLAS Consolidated Edition 2020 32 (CPI Group (UK) Ltd, ed., 7th ed. 2020).

¹⁷ Subpart W contains the rules applicable to the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. Every U.S. ship subject to SOLAS or part II of title III of the Communications Act must comply with Subpart W. See 47 CFR §§ 80.1065-80.1135.

¹⁸ FCC, *Communications Act Safety Radiotelephony Certificate*, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/824.pdf> (last visited Oct. 10, 2024).

and FCC Form 827, which is entitled, “Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephony Certificate.”¹⁹ The updates to these forms consisted of non-substantive edits. Both FCC Forms are used by FCC-licensed inspectors when certifying that a vessel’s radio communication equipment complies with the Commission’s rules. FCC Form 824 also certifies that the radiocommunications equipment complies with the Communications Act; and FCC Form 827 certifies that the radiocommunications equipment complies with the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act.

OMB APPROVAL. As noted above, the Commission allows FCC-licensed inspectors to conduct radio inspections of vessels, certify whether a vessel passes inspection, and issue the appropriate FCC Ship Safety Certificate. As per the PRA process, the Commission initiated a 60-day public comment period, which published in the Federal Register on April 25, 2024.²⁰ The Commission subsequently initiated a 30-day public comment period, which published in the Federal Register on July 1, 2024, directing comments to OMB as the Bureau had submitted its updated FCC Forms for PRA consideration.²¹ On August 27, 2024, OMB approved of FCC Forms 806, 824, 827, and 829 with an OMB number that now expires in August 2027.²² On September 20, 2024, the Commission published a notice in the Federal Register, notifying the public of OMB’s approval.²³

RADIO INSPECTIONS. Under the PRA, the Commission now requires that radio inspections be certified using the updated FCC Ship Safety Certificates, which reflect an OMB number that expires in August 2027. The updated FCC Forms are now available on the Commission’s webpage for immediate use.

However, as discussed above, the previous version of the FCC Ship Safety Certificates issued voluntarily by an inspector on or before November 27, 2024, will be accepted by the Bureau during this transition. Completed previous versions of the FCC Forms will be valid and will remain in force until the date specified by the inspector on FCC Forms 824, 827, or 829. Because FCC Form 806 does not explicitly provide a blank space for the inspector to write in such a date, any existing FCC Form 806 that was certified on or before November 27, 2024, remains valid for one year from the date of that inspection. This one-year timeframe is consistent with the annual inspection that is required by SOLAS and Subpart W of the Commission’s rules. Thus, after the one-year period, the FCC-licensed inspector is required to use updated FCC Form 806 for the next annual inspection of that vessel.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS. If any issues arise during an inspection at a foreign port regarding the updated FCC Forms, vessels should contact Ghassan Khalek by e-mail: Ghassan.Khalek@fcc.gov or phone: 202-316-5638; or Katie Knox by e-mail: Katie.Knox@fcc.gov or phone: 717-338-2652, for assistance.

People with Disabilities. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice).

Additional Information. For further information regarding this Public Notice, please contact

¹⁹ FCC, *Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephony Certificate*, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/827.pdf> (last visited Oct. 10, 2024).

²⁰ FCC, *Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission*, 89 Fed. Reg. 31749 (Apr. 25, 2024), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-04-25/pdf/2024-08775.pdf>.

²¹ FCC, *Information Collection Being Submitted for Review and Approval to [the] Office of Management and Budget*, 89 Fed. Reg. 54459 (July 1, 2024), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-07-01/pdf/2024-14479.pdf#page=1>.

²² OMB, *ICR Package*, https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewICR?ref_nbr=202407-3060-001 (last visited Oct. 10, 2024).

²³ FCC, *Information Collection Approved by the Office of Management and Budget*, 89 Fed. Reg. 77151 (Sept. 20, 2024), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-09-20/pdf/2024-21472.pdf>.

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