



January 21, 2021

Subject: Alaska Registration and Reporting for Small Passenger Vessels¹

Dear Cruise Ship Operator:

Thank you for choosing Alaska as a destination for your vessel. The Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance (CPVEC) Program was established by Alaska Statute (AS) 46.03.460 – 46.03.490 and 18 AAC 69. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Division of Water administers this program, which addresses wastewater discharges, hazardous wastes and solid wastes. Monitoring of visible emissions (air opacity) has been moved to a different division within ADEC (Division of Air Quality).

Alaska law requires annual commercial passenger vessel registration (AS 46.03.461 and 18 AAC 69.010). The registration will be conducted via an online registration system that allows vessel owners or operators to attach supporting documentation.

Registration Link: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/cruise-registration/>

Due to the current uncertainties surrounding the 2021 season, if any registration changes need to be made after March 1, please contact the Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance (CPVEC) Program. The CPVEC Program will assist you with changes on a case-by-case basis.

Under the CPVEC program, vessel owners or operators who intend to operate in Alaska marine waters in 2021 are required to submit the documents and pay the fee listed in Table 1.

Alaska law requires that the owner or operator of a registered small commercial passenger vessel (50 to 249 overnight passengers) not discharge treated sewage, graywater and other wastewater in Alaska waters unless the vessel applies for a permit to discharge or applies for alternative terms and conditions (Best Management Practices (BMP) plan). More information can be found on the discharge options webpage <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/cruise-smallship/>

If you are intending to submit a BMP application, submit updates to a current plan, or have questions regarding BMPs, please contact Willow Weimer (willow.weimer@alaska.gov).

¹ "Small commercial passenger vessel" means a commercial passenger vessel that provides overnight accommodations for 50 to 249 passengers for hire, determined with reference to the number of lower berths. (AS 46.03.490(13))

The ADEC 2021 online registration program includes step-by-step instructions. Online registration includes calculations of the per voyage² Environmental Compliance Fee for commercial passenger vessels pursuant to AS 46.03.480.

The only document the vessel owner or operator must send through the mail is the original notarized vessel owner or operator's signature page. This document is generated at the end of the registration process.

Registration documents are available both in PDF and Word versions and are available on request or online at <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/cruise-registration/>.

Other Requirements

The ADEC Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) Division and the Air Quality Program are in different divisions than the Cruise Ship Program and have their own separate requirements. Links to this information is included at the end of this letter.

In addition to ADEC's requirements, federal agencies (EPA and U.S. Coast Guard) have requirements for discharging wastewater in Alaska waters. EPA Vessel General Permit Information can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels-vgp>

Required Address for Submissions

Submit all CPVEC registration correspondence, support documents, and reports to:

Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Program
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
P.O. Box 111800
Juneau, AK 99811-1800
or by email to: DEC.WQ.Cruise@alaska.gov

Please feel free to contact Albert Faure at (907) 465-5279 (albert.faure@alaska.gov) or Johnny Zutz at (907) 465-5317 (johnny.zutz@alaska.gov) with questions on CPVEC program requirements.

We appreciate your cooperation and willingness to work with us in the past and look forward to working with you during 2021.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mutter

Sarah Mutter
Program Lead
Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Program

Attachments: Description of Required Plans (Table 1).

² A voyage is defined as "vessel trip to or from one or more ports of call in the state with the majority of passengers for hire completing the entire vessel trip; a vessel trip involving stops at more than one port of call is considered a single voyage so long as the majority of passengers for hire complete the entire trip." (AS 46.03.490(17))

Table 1. Schedule and Description of CPVEC Requirements

Document	Authority	Due Date
Registration Requirements:		
Registration with original notarized signature page submitted	AS46.03.461, 18 AAC 69.010	March 1, 2021
Non-hazardous Solid Waste Offloading and Disposal Plan	AS 46.03.475(e)(1), 18 AAC 69.035	March 1, 2021
Hazardous Waste and Substance Offloading Plan	AS 46.03.475(e)(2), 18 AAC 69.040	March 1, 2021
Environmental Compliance Fee	AS46.03.480, 18 AAC 69.015	June 1, 2021
Requirements if Discharging IN ALASKAN WATERS:		
Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP; for vessels with intent to discharge to marine waters of the state) ³	AS 46.03.465(b) 18 AAC 69.025	March 1, 2021 ⁴
Best Management Practices Plan (BMP) ⁵ (if vessel will discharge under alternative terms and conditions)	AS 46.03.462(k)	March 1, 2021 if a current approved plan is not already in place and remains active until the end of the season.
Vessel Specific Sampling Plan (VSSP), Approved by ADEC	18 AAC 69.030 AS46.03.465 (b)	A 2021 VSSP is required 21 days before sampling.
Discharge Sample Report	18 AAC 69.055	21 days after analytical testing is completed.
OTHER Requirements:		
Voyage Report and Deviation Report to document any changes to the number of voyages or deviations from waste plans	18 AAC 69.015, 18 AAC 69.065	November 15, 2021

³ Marine waters of the state are generally defined as three nautical miles from coast and all waters of the Alexander Archipelago (Inside Passage). For specific latitude and longitudes, see Alaska statute 46.03.490.

⁴ Approved QAPP are valid for up to three years, this deadline is for new/revised QAPPs.

⁵ An operator may submit a plan for alternative terms and conditions (a BMP). If this plan is not submitted, a permit to discharge is needed which meets the terms and conditions of Alaska statute 46.03.462(b).

CPVEC Links

The CPVEC Program website: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/>

CPVEC Cruise Ship owner/operator page:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/cruise-operator/>

CPVEC program regulations (18 AAC 69) and Alaska Statute (46.03.460- 46.03.490):

<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/laws-regs/>

EPA VGP

EPA's Vessel Discharge General Permit: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels-vgp>

Visible Emissions (Opacity Requirements) ⁶

The Air Quality Program website: <https://dec.alaska.gov/air/air-compliance/>

Air Quality regulations 18 AAC 50: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/laws-regs/>

Cruise Ship Excess Emission Form under Cruise Ship Excess Emissions Self Report:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/cruise-air/>

SPAR – Oil Spill Prevention Requirements (COFR and C-Plan)

Cruise Ships are categorized as Nontank Vessels⁷ (NTVs)

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr.aspx>

NTV requirements for operations in AK waters:

- Certificate of Financial Responsibility (COFR):
<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/financial-responsibility/apply-for-fr>
- Contingency Plan (C-Plan):
<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans>

Statutes and Regulations regarding Oil Spill Prevention requirements can be found at:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/regulations-guidance>

⁶ All items relating to monitoring and reporting of air emissions/opacity items moved to ADEC, Division of Air Quality

⁷ Self-propelled vessels over 400 gross registered tons, AS 46.04.900 (12)