

**CLIENT ALERT: U.S.C.G. PERMITS U.S. VESSEL OPERATORS
TO CARRY ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF RULES**

June 16, 2020

On May 21, 2020, the United States Coast Guard published Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 01-16 Change 2, permitting U.S. vessel operators to utilize electronic versions of the Inland Navigation Rules and Vessel Traffic Service Rules in lieu of paper charts, maps and publications. This change to the 2016 NVIC 01-16, which itself broadened the use of electronic charts and publications on U.S. flag domestic vessels, is a response to recommendations from the public and the Navigation Safety Advisory Council, who in 2016-2017 requested the Coast Guard expand the list of accepted electronic publications to include the Inland Navigation Rules and the Vessel Traffic Service Rules. This new guidance applies to all U.S. vessels subject to U.S. chart and map requirements.

The Coast Guard will now permit the current electronic editions of these Rules to meet the paper carriage requirement. However, these electronic versions must be downloaded and readily available; no internet connection should be required to access the Rules when needed. Vessel operators may continue to carry official paper versions of the Rules if so desired. To view NVIC 01-16 Change 2 in full, please visit <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/NVIC/Year/2010/#2016> or through the CGPortal.

This Client Alert is only a general summary for informational purposes. It and its content are not intended to be and should not be used or construed as legal advice. Readers should seek specific legal advice before acting with regard to the subjects mentioned herein.

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