

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer  
United States Coast Guard  
Marine Safety Center

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16710/P006893/ds  
Serial: C2-2003739  
November 19, 2020

University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS)  
Attn: Mr. Douglas Russell  
1501 NE Boat Street  
Seattle, WA 98195-7940  
doug@unols.org

Subj: Standardized Portable Vans for the University–National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) Oceanographic Research Vessels Regulated Under Subchapter U

Ref: (a) Your letter dated September 21, 2020  
(b) UNOLS Doc. -, “UNOLS Portable Scientific Vans Manual,” dated January 2003  
(c) MSC letter serial H1-0101248 dated May 24, 2001  
(d) CG-ENG Policy letter No. 01-16, “Portable Accommodation Module (PAM) Guidance,” dated April 29, 2016  
(e) Telecon between Mr. Russell (UNOLS) and Mr. Singh (MSC) on November 17, 2020

Dear Mr. Russell:

We received references (a) and (b), submitted with your emails dated September 21, 2020 (MSC Document No. 2016583) and October 22, 2020 (MSC Document No. 2017234), wherein you have raised concerns about conflicts between standards applied to portable scientific vans previously approved by the our office in reference (c) and standards outlined in reference (d).

Upon review of the submitted information within references (a), (b), and (e), we have concluded that the subject vans do not need to comply with the guidelines of reference (d) as long as they continue to be installed on United States flagged vessels certificated under Subchapter U. The comments from reference (c) remain applicable.

Since the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspections (OCMI) has the final authority for approval of installation of these units on a vessel, we recommend that you contact your local OCMI for any additional consideration or action required. Based on reference (e), to facilitate continued use of existing vans without seeking further reviews from our office, we recommend that you contact your local OCMI to affix placards on the subject vans in accordance with requirements of 46 CFR 195.11-20.

As an agreed-upon condition of your participation in the MSC’s electronic commerce program, you must provide the OCMI with a copy of this letter along with references (a) and (b).

Our Project Number for this review is P006893. Please ensure that future correspondence with our office includes this Project Number.

(Continued...)

Subj: UNOLS Vans for Installation on Subchapter U Vessels

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Please contact Mr. Digvijay Singh at (202) 795-6784 with questions concerning our review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. L. Mohnke".

A. L. MOHNKE

Lieutenant, U. S. Coast Guard

Acting Chief, Outer Continental Shelf Branch

By direction