

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

COMMANDANT (MMT)  
U.S. COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

6 August 1965

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 1-65

Subj: Stability Determination in Capsizing Cases Involving Uninspected Vessels

1. Purpose. This circular calls attention to the particular desirability of determining the stability characteristics of certain vessels which have capsized and provides for action which may be taken in such cases.
2. Discussion. Recognizing that the stability standards which are applied to vessels are a rationalization of past experience, it is considered desirable, insofar as possible, that the stability characteristics of vessels which have capsized be determined in order to check the applicability of existing stability standards and to determine if a need for changes in these standards may be indicated. In the case of inspected vessels such stability determinations are required. In the case of certain uninspected vessels stability determinations may also be made subject to the consent and with the cooperation of the owner.
3. Action. In capsizing cases, where the vessel is recovered, involving uninspected commercial vessels such as tugs 26 feet and over, documented fishing vessels, offshore supply and cargo vessels, and passenger motor-boats or sail boats carrying six or less passengers, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection will advise the owner in writing as to the desirability of having the stability characteristics of that vessel determined. This letter will solicit the owners' voluntary cooperation to this end. The owner will be asked to furnish all available plans which the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection will forward, along with any data related to the capsizing or to the vessel's stability, to the Coast Guard's Merchant Marine Technical Division for review. In some instances it may be possible for that Division to make a stability determination from the plans and data alone. In most cases, however, a stability test will be necessary. The owner will be advised that in such case the

Coast Guard's Merchant Marine Technical Division will provide test supervision and other necessary technical service, and perform all required calculations.

  
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