

PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION

References

- (a) **COMDTINST M16500.7** (series), Aids to Navigation Manual-Administration
 - (b) **33 CFR 62**
 - (c) **33 CFR 66**
 - (d) **33 CFR 67**
 - (e) **COMDTINST M16798** (series), Aux Operations Policy Manual
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Introduction

Private ATON are those aids established in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States that are not maintained by the Coast Guard or other Armed Services. Approximately two-thirds of all the private aids in the United States are located in the Eighth District. The Coast Guard is responsible for the administration and inspection of these aids. Reference (a) gives general guidance for the administration, inspection and verification of Private Aids to Navigation (PATON).

Classification of Private Aids to Navigation

Private aids are assigned one of the following classifications by the District Commander:

Class I: Aids to navigation on marine structures or other works which the owners are legally obligated to establish, maintain and operate as prescribed by the Coast Guard.

Class II: Aids to navigation exclusive of Class I located in waters used for general navigation, e.g., channel markers, race buoys, etc.

Class III: Aids to navigation exclusive of Class I located in waters not ordinarily used for general navigation.

Specifications

Private ATON shall conform to the United States Aids to Navigation System as described in reference (b), (c) and (d).

Protection of Private Aids

Private ATON are entitled to the same protection against interference or obstruction as is afforded by law to Coast Guard aids. If interference or obstruction occurs, a prompt report containing all the evidence available should be made to DPW. The maximum penalty for obstructing or interfering with a private aid is \$500.00 per offense per day (14 USC 84).

Definitions

Inspection: An inspection is defined as Coast Guard personnel or Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel performing a hands-on check of an aid to ensure the authorized equipment is installed as approved in the private aid application/permit and the aid is operating properly.

Verification: A verification is a self-verification where the owner provides a written report to the Coast Guard stating that the aid is operating properly.

Spot check: A spot check consists of USCG or USCG Auxiliary personnel viewing the aid from a distance and determining if the aid is operating as advertised.

Application Procedures

Application to establish and maintain, discontinue, change or transfer ownership of a private aid shall be made to DPW. Application forms (CG-2554 or CG-4143) will be provided upon request, in accordance with references (c) and (d).

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

DPW Responsibilities

Chief, Waterways Management Branch shall:

1. Review all private aid applications and distribute approved applications to owners.
 2. Publish and distribute annually the PATON Spot Check computer spreadsheets (assignment list) to the appropriate Sector and Auxiliary District Staff Officer – Aids to Navigation (DSO-AN). These spot checks will concentrate on PATON with a history of discrepancies or long term discrepancies
 3. Maintain a file of private ATON within the Eighth District.
 4. Answer all inquiries regarding private aids. DPW will originate all correspondence to the private aid owner / maintainer.
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Sector Responsibilities

Sector Commanders shall:

1. Ensure that all spot checks of PATON in their AOR are completed as assigned in the PATON Spot Check computer spreadsheets.
 2. Assign ANT / TENDER spot check responsibility on a “as directed” basis from DPW.
 3. Issue BNMs as required.
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Unit Responsibilities

Aids to Navigation units shall:

1. Conduct spot checks of PATON as assigned.
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2. Enter into I-ATONIS all spot checks conducted by their unit or Auxiliarist.
 3. Conduct one "AV" training session annually for each flotilla within their AOR. (Multi Flotilla training sessions may be feasible depending on logistics.)
 4. Coordinate with the C.G. Auxiliary flotillas their spot check efforts.
 5. Assist DPW with determination that the condition that instigated the establishment of the PATON still exists. Review LNM for long standing PATON discrepancies within your AOR and assist DPW in evaluation of necessity for PATON.
 6. Report recommended changes to PATON by letter, message or e-mail to CCGD8 (dpw).
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INSPECTION / VERIFICATION / SPOT CHECKS

Action

The Coast Guard is responsible for periodically inspecting private aids to ensure the aids are being maintained and are operating properly. A private aid can be observed in passing to determine that it is displaying the published characteristics. Boarding the aid should not, in most cases, be necessary.

Limitations

All classes of aids are subject to inspection by the Coast Guard without prior notice; however, personnel inspecting an aid should not trespass on private property or board an aid unless accompanied by the aid owner. Prior to boarding a private aid for inspection, the owner should be contacted and asked to be present.

Owner Not Present

In those cases where the owner is not present, a spot check shall be conducted. Repairs, changes or repositioning of a private aid by Coast Guard personnel is not authorized.

Inspection / Self Verification Frequency

The frequency of these periodic inspections / verifications / spot checks are as follows:

1. The CG Auxiliary will be utilized when available as the primary means for conducting these spot checks. These spot checks may be done during the course of normal operations and are intended simply to verify that the aid is displaying the published characteristics. If a more thorough inspection is considered necessary, this shall be done by the ATON unit, and the owner should be contacted and should be present for the inspection
 2. Upon establishment, the owner of new Class I private aids should submit a written report verifying proper operation of the PATON.
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3. Upon notification that a PATON has been discontinued, the discontinuance should be confirmed as may be necessary to ensure that the aid/obstruction has been removed.

4. Conduct spot checks as directed by DPW to ensure self-verifications of class II and III private aids are being properly conducted.

Observation

All private aids should be observed whenever passed.

Verification Form

Reports of inspections and spot checks should be made on form CG-5474 AUX or through an approved computer spreadsheet.

Discrepancy Reporting

Coast Guard units shall report private aid discrepancies to DPW as follows:

1. Report private aid discrepancies to their cognizant Sector Commander by Priority message for issuance of BNM. Ensure all requests for BNM contain information required in Chapter 12 of this SOP. Message examples are located at the end of this section.

2. Unauthorized aids: Aids not in I-ATONIS, report by letter, e-mail, or message. Units shall make every effort to establish ownership of the aids and submit their findings with this report.

AUXILIARY VERIFICATION PROGRAM – RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

DPW Responsibilities

Chief, Waterways Management Branch shall:

1. Provide private aid spot check Spreadsheets by email to the Auxiliary District Staff Officer-Aids to Navigation (DSO-AN) and Sectors.

2. Initiate all correspondence to owners of private aids that are found to be discrepant and ensure the owners take appropriate action.

3. Provide completion certificates for Auxiliarists to ATON units that attend their "AV" training.

4. Notify the appropriate (DSO-AN) of upcoming ATON courses being conducted by the District and ANTs.

Sector / DIRAUXS

1. Sector Commanders / DIRAUXs shall issue orders for Auxiliarists to conduct

Responsibilities

reimbursable patrols as directed by reference (e). Private aid spot checks may be conducted concurrently with safety patrols whenever possible.

2. Sector Commanders shall disseminate current spot check spreadsheets to Sector Units.

Unit Responsibilities

Aids to Navigation teams and River Tenders shall:

1. Provide annual Aid Verifier (AV) training to Auxiliarists as necessary. This training curriculum will be determined by the CO / OINC and should be geared to coincide with the ATON knowledge level of the flotilla but should at a minimum consist of Aid Recognition, Use of the Light List, Discrepancy Reporting and proper submission of the Aid spot check spreadsheet.

2. Provide DPW with 30 day notice of upcoming scheduled Auxiliary training so that the DSO-AN may be notified.

3. Utilize current spot check spreadsheets to track completion. This is the responsibility of the AtoN unit.

4. Enter spot check spreadsheets or Worksheets received from Auxiliarists into I-ATONIS, then forward Spreadsheets to DPW by e-mail. Ensure proper Discrepancy Procedures were followed for all Discrepancies.

Auxiliary District Staff

The Auxiliary District Staff Officer - Aids to Navigation (DSO-AN) shall:

1. Maintain a count of all spot checks conducted by Auxiliarists within their region.

2. Maintain an up-to-date listing of all "AV" qualified Auxiliarists and instructors within their Region and submit this to the appropriate Aton unit.

3. Distribute any aid assignment list / spot check spreadsheets, Worksheets, or other pertinent DPW provided publications to the Staff Officer – Aids to Navigation (SO-AN).

4. Coordinate with AtoN unit for training, administrative assistance, completing spot checks.

Auxiliary Division Staff

The Auxiliary Division Staff Officer - Aids to Navigation (SO-AN) shall:

1. Ensure Flotillas are receiving required training.

2. Assist Flotillas and CG Units in their coordinated spot check effort.

3. Distribute any aid assignment list or other pertinent (DSO-AN) provided publications to the Flotillas.

4. Coordinate with AtoN unit for training, administrative assistance, completing spot checks

Flotilla Staff Officers

Flotilla Staff Officers - Aids to Navigation (FSO-AN) shall:

1. Schedule and coordinate missions for private ATON spot checks.
 2. Coordinate with SO-AN any training, administrative assistance, etc. needed for the Flotilla.
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Verifying Officer Responsibilities

Aid Verifier shall:

1. Ensure aid is authorized and meets specification described in the current Light List.
 2. Check condition of aid and structure. **“DO NOT CLIMB ABOARD”** the aid at any time or trespass on private property.
 3. At night, check light phase characteristics. Check that all characteristics match those published in the Light List and nautical charts.
 4. Verify that the aid is on station using available resources.
 5. Submit to (DSO-AN) and the local AtoN unit the spot check spreadsheet or worksheet .
 6. Report all discrepancies by the fastest and direct means to the Coast Guard Operational Commander.
 7. Do not notify owner. If aid is discrepant, DPW will advise the owner.
 8. Attend “AV” recertification on a triennial basis provided you complete a minimum of (3) verifications annually. Annual recertification is required if the minimum is not met.
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PRIVATE AID DISCREPANCY REPORTING MESSAGE

FM (Reporting unit)

TO (Responsible Sector)

INFO CCGDEIGHT NEW ORLEANS LA//DPW//

Aton Unit

BT

UNCLAS //N16502//

SUBJ: ATON DISCREPANCY (WR ATON DISCREPANCY for Western Rivers discrepancy) - PRIVATE AID

1. AID NAME, LIGHT LIST NUMBER (and river system and mile number for Western Rivers). If the Aid Name is not known, furnish enough information and geographical data as possible to ensure proper identification. For multiple discrepancy's, each aid will be represented in a single paragraph using the same format starting with paragraph 2.

A. NATURE OF DISCREPANCY. Give enough information so the mariner will have a good idea of the situation.(extinguished, destroyed, missing, offstation, damaged, struck, etc.)

B. REPORTING SOURCE. Name of person, with contact point or name and call sign of vessel, or Coast Guard unit reporting the discrepant aid, with date and time (LOCAL) of the report.

C. IF THE AID IS DAMAGED BY A VESSEL, AND THE VESSEL IS KNOWN, PROVIDE AS MUCH OF THE FOLLOWING AS POSSIBLE:

Name and official documentation number.

Name and address of owner and operator. Phone numbers.

Witness, if any.

D. REQUEST NTM. If reporting unit is group BNM XXXX-XX XX issued.

BT

If a multiple discrepancy message, delete sub paragraph D from all except for the last discrepancy reported.

For units reporting and making corrections at the same time, change subject to ATON DISCREPANCY CORRECTION. Include resource used and tender time when aid was damaged by a known vessel.

PRIVATE AID DISCREPANCY REPORTING MESSAGE

P 312129Z JAN 02
FM COMCOGARD SECTOR NEW ORLEANS LA//CC//
INFO COGARD ANT DULAC LA
COGARD AN GULFPORT MS
COGARD ANT VENICE LA
COGARD ANT MORGAN CITY LA
COGARD ANT NEW ORLEANS LA
USCGC CYPRESS
USCGC BARBARA MABRITY
USCGC PAMLICO
USCGC AXE
CCGDEIGHT NEW ORLEANS LA//DPW//CC//
CDRUSAED NEW ORLEANS LA//CEMVN-OD-T//
SIMA PASCAGOULA MS//PORTOPS//
COGARD MSO NEW ORLEANS LA
COGARD MSO MORGAN CITY LA
USCGC RAZORBILL
USCGC STURGEON
USCGC POMPANO
USCGC PELICAN
COGARD STA GULFPORT MS
COGARD STA GRAND ISLE LA
COGARD STA VENICE LA
SPECBOATU TWO TWO
COMSUBGRU TEN
BT
UNCLAS //N16518//
SUBJ: ATON DISCREPANCY – PRIVATE AID
1. SHIP SHOAL BLK 108, WELL STRUCTURE “CE”, POSN: 28-51-31N 091-06-52W
A. JOEY DESORMEAUS, 985-534-6436
B. HORN OUT
C. N/A
D. BNM 0158-02 NO ISSUED.
2. SHIP SHOAL BLK 99, WELL STRUCTURE “CONSTOCK”, POSN: 28-53-00N 091-05-33W
A. JOEY DESORMEAUS, 985-534-6436
B. HORN OUT
C. N/A
D. BNM 0159-02 NO ISSUED.
BT
NNNN

SECTION 6

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

PRIVATE AID SPOTCHECK WORK SHEET (COASTAL EXAMPLE)

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK AFTER SPOT CHECK

Aid Num: 333 (P) BROADWATER BCH MARINA CH DBN 5 LAT: 030°22'51.910' 'N

Aux Num: 0 Aid Type: DBN Depth: 0 LONG: 088°57'50.060' 'W

LLNR:08350.00 Snd Type:

Lt Char:? Charts: 11372

Last Insp: 11/11/1991 Comments: NATIONWIDE

U-Remarks:

D-Remarks: WATCHING PROPERLY

Inspector: _____ Date spot checked On: _____

Aux. Phone: (____) _____ Aux. Num: _____ Aux. Region: _____

CIRCLE OR FILL IN BLANKS AS APPROPRIATE

VERIFICATION

Light List Verified? YES / NO (i.e. Name, Position, Characteristic, Structure)

2554 Verified? YES / NO

Position check? YES / NO Method? LORAN : GPS : Sextant Angles : Bearings :

Ranges: Other _____ Position: ____-____-____N, ____-____-____W

LOP 1: Bearing: _____ Range: _____ Object: _____

LOP 2: Bearing: _____ Range: _____ Object: _____

LOP 3: Bearing: _____ Range: _____ Object: _____

DISCREPANCY

(REPORT ALL DISCREPANCIES TO COGNIZANT SECTOR COMMANDER)

Light out: Improper characteristic: Broken lens: Light obscured:

Missing : Off station: Vandalized: Peeling paint: Retro peeling:

Number obliterated: Sinking: Aid obscured: Damaged: Bird fouling:

(Explain unlisted discrepancies in the Comments section below)

Method of Reporting Discrepancy: MAIL: PHONE / RADIO: Time Reported _____

Coast Guard Unit notified: _____: Other _____

DID YOU REMEMBER TO CONVERT GPS OR LORAN LAT / LONG DECIMALS TO SECONDS? YES / NO

Comments: (continue on reverse if necessary)

COASTAL SAMPLE SPOT CHECK SPREADSHEET

AID NUM	LLNR	AID_NAME	CHAR	LAT.	LONG.	Insp Date	Aux#	WP	Remarks	NAME
2852	25775	USGS TIDE GAUGE DBN		28-36-17.000N	096-01-11.000W					ANT OCONNOR
2853	26785	USGS TIDE GAUGE DBN		28-44-20.000N	096-10-53.000W					ANT OCONNOR
2851	26790	USGS TIDE GAUGE DBN		28-37-52.000N	096-21-45.000W					ANT OCONNOR
4700	27050	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PIER LTS (7)	FL G 2.5S	27-50-16.200N	097-03-01.050W					ANT CORPUS
4586	27222	MUSTANG BEACH CHANNEL JETTY LT	FL W 4S	27-50-03.000N	097-06-22.000W					ANT CORPUS
4587	27223	MUSTANG BEACH CHANNEL JETTY LT	FL W 4S	27-50-02.000N	097-06-26.000W					ANT CORPUS
4609	27224	MUSTANG BCH CH E. MIDDLE JTY LT.	FL W 4S	27-50-00.000N	097-06-19.000W					ANT CORPUS
4610	27233	MUSTANG BCH CH W. MIDDLE JTY LT.	FL W 4S	27-49-58.500N	097-06-25.000W					ANT CORPUS
4588	27242	MUSTANG BEACH CHANNEL JETTY LT	FL W 4S	27-49-56.000N	097-06-20.000W					ANT CORPUS
4589	27243	MUSTANG BEACH CHANNEL JETTY LT	FL W 4S	27-49-55.000N	097-06-23.000W					ANT CORPUS
2856	27460	CORPUS CHRISTI CH P/L LT A	FL G 4S	27-49-19.000N	097-10-13.000W					ANT CORPUS
2857	27465	CORPUS CHRISTI CH P/L LT B	Q R	27-49-28.000N	097-10-14.000W					ANT CORPUS
3090	27480	SUNOCO TERMINALS DOCK LTS (2)	FL R 2.5S	27-49-09.000N	097-11-57.000W					ANT CORPUS
2855	27545	CORPUS CHRISTI P/L CROSS B "B"	FL Y 4S	27-48-31.000N	097-16-54.000W					ANT CORPUS
2891	27790	INGLESIDE COVE P/L MKR LT A	Q G	27-50-13.430N	097-13-58.470W					ANT CORPUS
2892	27795	INGLESIDE COVE P/L MKR LT B	Q R	27-50-15.650N	097-13-51.080W					ANT CORPUS
2872	27840	DUPONT MOORING FACILITY LTS (6)	FL R 2.5S	27-52-11.000N	097-14-44.000W					ANT CORPUS
3073	27880	RINCON INDUS PARK CH REAR RNGE DBN		27-50-48.075N	097-22-59.080W					ANT CORPUS
3074	27885	RINCON INDUS PARK CH DBN 2		27-48-50.701N	097-21-08.621W					ANT CORPUS
3075	27890	RINCON INDUS PARK CH DBN 4		27-49-01.062N	097-21-18.121W					ANT CORPUS
3076	27895	RINCON INDUS PARK CH DBN 6		27-49-16.411N	097-21-32.197W					ANT CORPUS
3077	27900	RINCON INDUS PARK CH DBN 8		27-49-31.760N	097-21-46.273W					ANT CORPUS
3078	27905	RINCON INDUS PARK CH DBN 10		27-49-47.108N	097-22-00.351W					ANT CORPUS
3079	27910	RINCON INDUS PARK CH DBN 12		27-50-02.455N	097-22-14.429W					ANT CORPUS
2858	27915	CORPUS CHRISTI BAY P/L LT A	Q R	27-49-56.000N	097-09-55.000W					ANT CORPUS
2859	27920	CORPUS CHRISTI BAY P/L LT B	Q R	27-48-37.000N	097-10-34.000W					ANT CORPUS
200100631446	27927	UNIVERSITY BEACH LIGHT	FL G 2.5S	27-42-57.710N	097-19-14.635W					ANT CORPUS
200100631446	27927	UNIVERSITY BEACH LIGHT 1	FL G 2.5S	27-42-57.710N	097-19-14.635W					ANT CORPUS
3083	36525	SAN ANTONIO BAY P/L LT A	FL Y 2.5S	28-16-07.550N	096-44-18.130W					ANT CORPUS
3084	36530	SAN ANTONIO BAY P/L LT B	FL Y 2.5S	28-16-02.920N	096-44-13.920W					ANT CORPUS
3007	36555	NORTHERN NATURAL GAS P/L LTD BUOY A	FL Y 2.5S	28-15-23.000N	096-45-11.000W					ANT CORPUS
2819	36940	ARANSAS BAY P/L MKR LT A	Q W	28-02-40.000N	096-59-20.000W					ANT CORPUS
2820	36945	ARANSAS BAY P/L MKR LT B	Q W	28-02-35.000N	096-59-15.000W					ANT CORPUS
2821	37060	ARANSAS BAY P/L MKR LT C	Q W	28-00-50.000N	097-01-00.000W					ANT CORPUS
2822	37065	ARANSAS BAY P/L MKR LT D	Q W	28-00-40.000N	097-00-45.000W					ANT CORPUS
2823	37315	ARANSAS C.C. BAY C/O P/L MKR LT A	FL R 4S	27-51-30.000N	097-10-03.000W					ANT CORPUS
3089	37700	SAN JOSE ISLAND BREAKWATER LT 1	Q G	27-57-12.000N	096-56-27.000W					ANT CORPUS
3073	27880	RINCON INDUS PARK CH REAR RNGE DBN		27-50-48.075N	097-22-59.080W					ANT CORPUS
3074	27885	RINCON INDUS PARK CH DBN 2		27-48-50.701N	097-21-08.621W					ANT CORPUS
3077	27900	RINCON INDUS PARK CH DBN 8		27-49-31.760N	097-21-46.273W					ANT CORPUS

