



# Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant  
U.S. Coast Guard  
**Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy**  
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave, SE, STOP 7516  
Washington, DC 20593-7516

MSIB Number: 01-19  
Date: August 2, 2019  
Contact: LT Matt Edes  
Phone: (202) 372-2248  
E-Mail: [Matthew.S.Edes@uscg.mil](mailto:Matthew.S.Edes@uscg.mil)



## 2019 Guidelines for the U.S. Coast Guard OSRO Classification Program

This Bulletin announces the 2019 update to the Guidelines for the Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) Classification Program. These updates are a collaborative effort between the Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy (CG-MER), the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC), and Coast Guard subject matter experts to more closely align the program with the applicable regulations within 33 CFR § 154 and 33 CFR § 155.

The updates contained within the 2019 version include the following:

- Replaced the “Optional Acceptable Classification” process with the “Alternative Compliance Program”, which provides a mechanism for thoroughly reviewing any approved alternatives for temporary storage capacity, Estimated Daily Recovery Capacity, and travel speed. Alternative compliances for boom height will no longer be accepted.
- Require OSROs to validate the accuracy of a resource site’s inventory every six months.
- Removed the previously accepted dispersant application waiver, which allowed OSROs to waive the requirement to commence dispersant operations within seven hours after the Federal On-Scene Coordinator’s decision to use dispersants.
- Revised and edited portions of each classification program to clarify previous language, add context, or remove redundant language.

The 2019 OSRO Guidelines may be accessed at:

[Homeport - 2019 OSRO Guidelines](#) or use the following path – Environmental – Vessel Response Plan Program – What’s New?

Any questions regarding this update may be directed to, LT Matt Edes at [Matthew.S.Edes@uscg.mil](mailto:Matthew.S.Edes@uscg.mil) or the National Strike Force Coordination Center at [D05-SMB-NSFCC-RR1@uscg.mil](mailto:D05-SMB-NSFCC-RR1@uscg.mil).