



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Incomplete and Otherwise Inaccurate United States Coast Pilots

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently became aware of incomplete and otherwise inaccurate reproductions of the U.S. Coast Pilot being offered for sale to consumers. These reproductions may not meet U.S. Coast Guard carriage requirements.

How do you know if your copy of the U.S. Coast Pilot is incomplete or otherwise out of compliance with Coast Guard regulations?

Unofficial U.S. Coast Pilots are typically easily identifiable, and have exhibited the following errors:

- The inaccurate book (other than interior and exterior covers) is printed as a black and white document. The official copy has color images and text.
- Front and back cover images do not correspond to the examples presented as thumbnails on the U.S. Coast Pilot website.
- Chapters are missing from the table of contents.
- There is no index.
- There are claims that the book is an exact reproduction of the current Coast Guard document. (The U.S. Coast Pilot is a NOAA product, not a Coast Guard document).
- There are directions to download a free phone app to access information not included in the book.

Where can you obtain official copies of the U.S. Coast Pilot?

- Purchase official publications from a printer certified by NOAA. Official publications carry the NOAA certification of authenticity printed on the back cover of the book.
- Digital versions of the updated U.S. Coast Pilot are also available as PDFs for free download from nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/CoastPilot.

NOAA is currently working to address any issues of improper trademark reproduction that may be associated with these unofficial reproductions of the U.S. Coast Pilot.

Additionally, Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles – Long Beach personnel are aware of these inaccurate/incomplete U.S. Coast Pilots and will review vessel copies during vessel inspections and examinations.

If you have any further questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach Waterways Management Division at 310-521-3860, or email to: D11-DG-SectorLALBWWM@uscg.mil.