



Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary - Pacific

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Operations Bulletin

To: All Unit Leaders, Supporting Societies

CC: Board of Directors

From: Ryan Woodward
Director of SAR/Operations

Date: March 9, 2005

Re: **Vessel Maintenance Issues: Seastar Hydraulic Fluid & Re-Righting Systems**

Two maintenance related issues have recently come up that bring with them lessons worth sharing with all CCGA-P units operating vessels.

-Seastar Hydraulic Steering Systems: A very large number of Dedicated Response Vessels and CCGA-P Owner Operator Vessels are equipped with reliable Teleflex Seastar hydraulic steering systems. Please be aware that even though these are hydraulic systems that they have very specific fluid requirements. Use of fluids not specifically approved by the manufacturer such as ATF or automatic power steering fluid can and will cause premature and possibly unexpected seal and valve failure, rendering your steering system useless and your vessel disabled.

-Re-Righting System Maintenance: For Dedicated Response Vessels equipped with compressed gas (air or carbon dioxide/nitrogen), please ensure that the system is being maintained according to the manufacturers' instructions (which likely include having the bottle and valve checked/serviced at one year intervals). An older system that had not received the appropriate maintenance and was scheduled for complete replacement on a CCGA-P DRV was discharged on land as a test – the system did activate, but did not have enough pressure to have been able to re-right the vessel. Please take the necessary steps to ensure that your crews will be assured that the re-righting system they are relying on as their last resort is fully operational.

If you have any questions please contact Ryan Woodward at 604-214-8206 at home, 604-961-8206 cell/pager or by email at ryan.woodward@ccga-p.ca