

NEWSLETTER NO. 1 / 19

US Shutdown Federal Offices- COFR Applications

9th January 2019

The current US Government partial shutdown of US Federal offices commenced on the 22nd December 2018 and still continues. The shutdown is currently in its 18th day and it is the second longest in U.S. history, after the 21-day shutdown of 1995-96.

As per the below announcement currently on the USCG website, the USCG inform all parties that they have been affected by this shutdown and that as a result they are currently not processing any application for new or renewal of US COFRs.

Due to the Federal Government shutdown the Vessel Certification Division will be closed.

During the shutdown, the ECOFR site will remain operational.

We will review all received applications in the order received once the Government is re-opened.

CG NATIONAL POLLUTION FUNDS CENTER

US COAST GUARD STOP 7605

2703 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE SE

WASHINGTON DC 20593-7605

New telephone number: 202-795-6130

New fax number: 202-795-6123

Our hours of operation are Monday-Friday 7:00am-4:30pm Eastern Standard Time.

Whilst the shutdown continues in place all COFR applications are been delayed in their processing. In the meantime, COFR guarantors have been requested to continue sending documentation to the USCG as normal so that the applications and relevant documentation may be available and accessible to those USCG examiner officers on duty.

Operators/Master/Agents will have to contact the port authorities at the Port of Entry, in advance of the minimum 96 hours NOA to be fully complied with, with the vessels arrival details and ask them to contact the USCG during the working office hours (Monday-Friday 7:00am-4:30pm Eastern Standard Time). We are informed that the USCG will only respond once they hear from the Port Authorities.

USCG will then retrieve the vessels application and if the documents are in good order, they will assist the vessel into the port.

USCG e-Cofr website will not be updated until the shutdown is over.

At the moment there is no expected date for the shutdown to come to an end. Even at that stage there will be of course a further period of disruption in processing / updating of the website given the inevitable backlog of work to be processed.

We will carefully monitor the situation for all clients who require COFR renewal / new application in order to ensure that no problems arise.

During the present situation we recommend all our clients to contact us and move as early as possible in case their vessels, without an existing and valid COFR in place, are expected to trade to the US.

We remain at your complete disposal for any further information or advice on this matter.

This Newsletter, and our information archive, can also be accessed at www.plferrari.com

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