U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Captain of the Port
United States Coast Guard
Sector Miami

100 MacArthur Causeway
Miami Beach, FL 33139
Phone: (305) 535-4472
Fax: (305) 535-8704

Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 26-005, Port Conditions

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Port Condition Requirements

This MSIB clarifies Coast Guard (CG) mandated Heavy Weather procedures and defines Port Conditions for the Port of Miami, Miami River, Port Everglades, Port of Palm Beach and Port of Fort Pierce and all waterfront facilities and waterways in Sector Miami's area of responsibility as defined in 33 CFR § 3.35-10. For the purpose of this and subsequent MSIBs regarding Port Conditions, "operations" includes embarkation, disembarkation, vessel movement and the handling, loading, unloading, storing, and moving of oil, containerized hazardous materials, and explosives at waterfront facilities and on any vessel or structure on, adjacent to, or in, U.S. navigable waters.

Port Condition Whiskey:

- Sustained tropical storm force winds (39-54 mph / 34-47 knots) are predicted to arrive within 72 hours.
  - Take due diligence to prepare for potential storm impacts.
  - Waterfront facilities shall begin removing all debris and secure potential flying hazards.
  - Container stacking plans should be implemented. Waterfront facilities that, due to space constraints, are unable to reduce container stacking height to no more than four high (or no more than two high for hazardous materials), must submit a container stacking protocol to the COTP Miami for approval.
  - The COTP will convene the Port Coordination Team (PCT) via conference call.
  - The Sector Miami Waterways Management division will convene a bridge lockdown coordination meeting via conference call.

Port Condition X-Ray:

- Sustained tropical storm force winds are expected within 48 hours.
  - All potential flying debris should be removed or secured.
  - Hazardous materials/pollution hazards must be secured in a safe manner away from waterfront areas.
  - Waterfront facilities should continue to implement container stacking protocol and are expected to complete this prior to Port Condition Yankee.
    - Containers must not be stacked more than four high unless approved by the COTP.
    - Containers carrying hazardous materials must not be stacked more than two high.
  - All oceangoing vessels greater than 500 gross tons (GT) must prepare to depart ports, berths or anchorages. These vessels shall depart immediately upon the setting of Port Condition Yankee.
  - Vessels that are unable to depart must contact the COTP to request permission to remain in port and provide their Heavy Weather Plan (HWP) for review. Proof of facility owner/operator approval is required.

- All vessels 300-500 GT are to provide the HWP to the COTP. HWP templates are provide on the USCG Homeport Miami site: homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/miami
- Vessels with the COTP's permission to remain in port must implement their CG reviewed mooring arrangements.
- Waterfront facility operators should prepare to terminate all cargo operations.
- The COTP may require additional precautions to ensure the safety of the waterfront facilities, vessels and waterways.
- CG Port Survey teams will be deployed to validate implementation of Port Condition X-Ray.
- The COTP will convene the PCT via conference call.
- The Sector Miami Waterways Management division will convene a bridge lockdown coordination conference call.

Port Condition Yankee:

- Sustained tropical storm force winds are expected to arrive within 24 hours.
  - Inbound vessels greater than 500 GT will not be permitted to enter ports, berths, anchorages or inland navigable waters up to three nautical miles offshore.
  - Oceangoing vessels greater than 500 GT must depart ports, berths or anchorages unless prior permission to remain has been granted by the COTP.
  - Following the departure of oceangoing vessels greater than 500 GT, the COTP will exempt drawbridges from opening regulatory requirements to enable them to begin bridge lockdown process. Bridge lockdown process ***may*** begin as early as 16 hours prior to the arrival of sustained tropical storm force winds in some instances, which will result in some bridges unable to open well before full bridge lockdown is achieved eight hours prior to the arrival if sustained tropical storm force winds.
  - Appropriate container stacking protocol must be completed.
  - Waterfront facilities operators must terminate all cargo operations not associated with storm preparations. Cargo operations associated with storm preparations include moving cargo within or off the port, crane and other port/facility equipment preparations, and similar activities.
  - Waterfront facilities may not perform land-based containerized truck cargo operations unless specifically authorized by the COTP
  - All waterway facilities shall continue to operate in accordance with their approved facility security plans and comply with the requirements of the Maritime Transportation Security Act.
  - CG Port Survey teams will conduct Port Condition Yankee validation.
  - The COTP will convene the PCT via conference call.
  - The Sector Miami Waterways Management division will convene a bridge lockdown coordination conference call.
  - All petroleum barges shall have cargo levels reduced to a minimum and shall be adequately secured.

Port Condition Zulu:

- Sustained tropical storm force winds are expected within 12 hours.
  - All affected waterfront facility operations are suspended except for final preparations previously permitted by the COTP, as deemed necessary, to ensure the safety of the facilities.
  - All oceangoing vessels greater than 500 GT shall have departed the ports, berths or anchorages unless otherwise authorized by the COTP. Vessels greater than 500 GT with COTP

authorization to remain within COTP zone must implement their CG reviewed mooring arrangements.
- Anticipate bridge lockdown may be completed as early as eight hours prior to the arrival of sustained tropical storm force winds.
- CG Port Survey Teams will conduct final port assessments.
- Safety and/or security personnel wishing to remain at a waterfront facility shall follow the applicable facility policies and procedures and advise the COTP of their intentions.
- The COTP will convene the PCT via conference call.

Post-Hurricane Port Conditions

- Once Port Condition Zulu has been set, affected waterfront facilities shall not resume operations until the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the COTP:
  - Waterfront facilities should begin to conduct damage assessments. When movement within the facility landside is safe and authorized by applicable agency, appropriate security measures per MTSA requirements must be in place. Designated CG Port Survey Team members must notify the COTP upon determination that the waterfront facility is physically/structurally safe to recommence operations.
  - CG Ports and Waterways Survey teams will conduct preliminary assessments of the waterfront facilities and waterways as soon as weather conditions permit.
  - Waterfront facilities may not receive cargo or passengers until specifically authorized by the COTP. At a minimum, the COTP must be advised by the Facility Security Officer that facility security plans are fully implemented, and that Customs and Border Protection is prepared to process passengers/cargo, as applicable. Additionally, CG Port Survey Teams will verify that security measures are in place.
  - Bridge operations will be coordinated through respective Emergency Operation Centers until the COTP determines that resumption of bridge operations is safe.
  - The safety zone established around the COTP Miami zone during the event will remain in effect until rescinded. No vessel movement or waterfront facility operations will be authorized without the express permission of the COTP. Anticipate the potential for draft and other restrictions based upon the assessment of waterways and aids to navigation surveys.

- All hurricane informational documents will be available on navcen.uscg.gov under "Port Conditions".

- Additional pre and post-hurricane information will be distributed by the COTP via MSIB and direct contact with CG Port Survey Teams and Maritime Transportation System Recovery Unit members.

Please direct any questions regarding this MSIB to Sector Miami's Waterways Management Division at (786) 295-9051 or Command Center at (833) 642-7271.

F. J. Florio
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port, Miami