Coast Guard, DHS § 115.204
uninspected vessel or recreational ves-
sel in a similar service or if the owner
of the vessel otherwise establishes to
the satisfaction of the cognizant OCMI
that the vessel is seaworthy for the in-
tended service; and
(3) Sections 121.404, 121.408, and
121.410 of this subchapter providing the
vessel is in satisfactory compliance
with any navigational equipment re-
quirements for an uninspected or rec-
reational vessel in a similar service.
(b) A vessel operating under the al-
ternative regulations of paragraph (a)
of this section must:
(1) Not alter the arrangement of the
vessel nor remove any equipment re-
quired by the certificate for the in-
tended operation, without the consent
of the cognizant OCMI;
(2) Comply with minimum manning
specified on the Certificate of Inspec-
tion, which may include reduced man-
nning depending on the number of pass-
sengers and operation of the vessel;
(3) When carrying from one to six
passengers except for a vessel being op-
erated as a recreational vessel, make
the announcement required by
§ 122.506(a) of this subchapter before
going underway; and
(4) If a vessel of more than 15 gross
tons, not carry freight for hire.
(c) The endorsement issued under
paragraph (a) of this section must indi-
cate the route, maximum number of
passengers, and the manning required
to operate under the provisions of this
section.
§ 115.204 Permit to carry excursion
party.
(a) The cognizant OCMI may permit a
vessel to engage in a temporary excurs-
ion operation with a greater number
of persons or on a more extended route,
or both, than permitted by its Certifi-
cate of Inspection when, in the opinion
of the OCMI, the operation can be un-
taken safely.
(b) Upon the written application of
the owner or managing operator of the
vessel, the cognizant OCMI may issue a
Form CG–949, “Permit to Carry Excurs-
ion Party.” to indicate his or her per-
mission to carry an excursion party.
The OCMI will indicate on the permit
the conditions under which it is issued.

Subpart B—Special Permits and
Certificates
§ 115.202 Permit to proceed.
(a) When a vessel is not in compli-
ance with its Certificate of Inspection
or fails to comply with a regulation of
this subchapter, the cognizant OCMI
may permit the vessel to proceed to an-
other port for repair if, in the judg-
ment of the OCMI, the trip can be com-
pleted safely, even if the Certificate of
Inspection of the vessel has expired or
is about to expire.
(b) Form CG–948, “Permit to Proceed
to another Port for Repairs,” may be
issued by the cognizant OCMI to the
owner, managing operator, or the mas-
ter of the vessel stating the conditions
under which the vessel may proceed to
another port. The permit may be issued
only upon the written application of
the owner, managing operator, or mas-
ter, and after the vessel’s Certificate of
Inspection is turned over to the OCMI.
(c) A vessel may not carry passengers
when operating in accordance with a
permit to proceed, unless the cognizant
OCMI determines that it is safe to do
so.

§ 115.204 Permit to carry excursion
party.
(a) The cognizant OCMI may permit a
vessel to engage in a temporary excurs-
ion operation with a greater number
of persons or on a more extended route,
or both, than permitted by its Certifi-
cate of Inspection when, in the opinion
of the OCMI, the operation can be un-
taken safely.
(b) Upon the written application of
the owner or managing operator of the
vessel, the cognizant OCMI may issue a
Form CG–949, “Permit to Carry Excurs-
ion Party.” to indicate his or her per-
mission to carry an excursion party.
The OCMI will indicate on the permit
the conditions under which it is issued.
the number of persons the vessel may carry, the crew required, any additional lifesaving or safety equipment required, the route for which the permit is granted, and the dates on which the permit is valid.

(c) The number of passengers normally permitted on an excursion vessel is governed by §115.113 of this part.

(d) The OCMI will not normally waive applicable minimum safety standards when issuing an excursion permit. In particular, a vessel that is being issued an excursion permit will normally be required to meet the minimum stability, survival craft, life jacket, fire safety, and manning standards applicable to a vessel in the service for which the excursion permit is requested.

(e) The permit acts as a temporary, limited duration supplement to the vessel’s Certificate of Inspection and must be carried with the Certificate of Inspection. A vessel operating under a permit to carry an excursion party must be in full compliance with the terms of its Certificate of Inspection as supplemented by the permit.

(f) The OCMI may require an inspection prior to the issuance of a permit to carry an excursion party.

Subpart C—Posting of Certificates, Permits, and Stability Letters

§115.302 Certificates and permits.

The Certificate of Inspection and any SOLAS Certificates must be posted under glass or other suitable transparent material, such that all pages are visible, in a conspicuous place on the vessel where observation by passengers is likely. If posting is impracticable, such as on open boats, the certificates must be kept on board in a weathertight container readily available for use by the crew and for display to passengers and others on request.

§115.306 Stability letter.

When, in accordance with §170.120 in subchapter S of this chapter, a vessel must be provided with a stability letter, the stability letter must be posted under glass or other suitable transparent material, such that all pages are visible, at the operating station of the vessel. If posting is impracticable, the stability letter must be kept on board in a weathertight container readily available for use by the crew and for display to passengers and others on request.

§115.310 Certification expiration date stickers.

(a) A Certification Expiration Date Sticker indicates the date upon which the vessel’s Certificate of Inspection expires and is provided by the cognizant OCMI in the number required, upon issuance or renewal of the Certificate of Inspection.

(b) A vessel that is issued a Certificate of Inspection under the provisions of this subchapter must not be operated without a valid Certification Expiration Date Sticker affixed to the vessel on a place that is:

1. A glass or other smooth surface from which the sticker may be removed without damage to the vessel;
2. Readily visible to each passenger prior to boarding the vessel and to patrolling Coast Guard law enforcement personnel; and
3. Acceptable to the Coast Guard marine inspector.

(c) The Coast Guard marine inspector may require the placement of more than one sticker in order to insure compliance with paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

Subpart D—Inspection for Certification

§115.400 General.

(a) An inspection is required before the issuance of a Certificate of Inspection. Such an inspection for certification is not made until after receipt of the application for inspection required by §115.105 of this part.

(b) Upon receipt of a written application for inspection, the cognizant OCMI assigns a marine inspector to inspect the vessel for compliance with this subchapter at a time and place mutually agreed upon by the OCMI and the owner, managing operator, or representative thereof.

(c) The owner, managing operator, or a representative thereof shall be present during the inspection.