



**COLONIAL COMPLIANCE SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**MARITIME REGULATORY CONSULTANTS**

February 19, 2016  
NTC 05-2016

**CSI NOTICE TO CLIENTS 05-2016**

**SUBJECT: COAST GUARD'S VOLUNTARY VESSEL FUEL OIL SAMPLING PROGRAM**

The U.S. Coast Guard recently issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 03-16 announcing a voluntary vessel fuel oil sampling program to help determine vessel compliance with the North American Emission Control Area (ECA) and U. S. Caribbean Sea ECA sulfur emission requirements. A copy of the MSIB may be obtained by visiting the following website:

[https://www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/003\\_16\\_2-17-2016.pdf](https://www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/003_16_2-17-2016.pdf).

Beginning February 29, 2016, when Port State Control Officers are conducting examinations, they may request fuel samples from vessels. Sampling is voluntary. The Coast Guard will ask vessel masters for permission to sample. Vessels that provide voluntary samples will not receive sanctions if the voluntary samples are non-compliant; and all samples will be taken at appropriate locations by the ship's crew with Coast Guard oversight. This voluntary sampling program does not change the Coast Guard's authority to require samples when there are clear grounds to suspect non-compliance.

We recommend you review the MSIB internally and decide whether or not you want your vessels to participate in this voluntary program and communicate this to your vessels.