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Foss Draws Coast Guard Praise for Safety, Compliance Leadership

***All company's West Coast tugs finish voluntary exams
for towing vessel safety; customers and crews both benefit***

SEATTLE, WA, March 31, 2011 — U.S. Coast Guard admirals from commands in Puget Sound and the San Francisco Bay Area agree: When it comes to safety and compliance, Foss Maritime is an industry leader.

The two U.S. Coast Guard admirals – G.T. Blore from the Seattle-based 13th Coast Guard District and J. R. Castillo from the Alameda, CA,-based 11th Coast Guard District – wrote letters to Foss officials praising the company for its completion of voluntary towing vessel examinations.

Rear Admiral Blore wrote: "Through this proactive initiative, you have demonstrated Foss Maritime to be an industry leader in safety and compliance. Your actions embody the intended cooperative spirit of the Coast Guard's Towing Vessel Bridging Program and have bolstered towing vessel safety within the 13th Coast Guard District."

Foss officials say that 35 out of its 36 tugs have passed the voluntary exam, which the Coast Guard and federal government consider a bridge to mandatory towing vessel regulations. The Richmond, CA,-based Bay Area group was the first at Foss to complete the voluntary exams, according to Capt. Igor Loch, the company's director of marine assurance. That region was followed by the Pacific Northwest, Columbia-Snake River and Southern California.



Rear Admiral J.R. Castillo wrote: "The success you have achieved is due in no small part to the investment Foss Maritime has made in safety management . . . This is an impressive accomplishment for (the company) and will certainly pay dividends as forthcoming towing vessel inspection regulations are enacted.

"I know your crews and customers will be well served by Foss Maritime's commitment to towing vessel safety," the admiral wrote.

Gary Faber, President and COO of Seattle-based Foss, said the admirals' letters underscore both the company's commitment to safety and its willingness to partner with regulators in the ongoing development of new maritime rules and regulations. Loch called Coast Guard recognition of Foss' corporate commitment to safety – both in terms of investment and training – especially gratifying in today's maritime environment.

Admiral Castillo wrote, "The teamwork between management and crew is clearly evident to my towing vessel examiners. Foss Maritime's willingness to work closely with the Coast Guard has made it a pleasure for our personnel to visit your vessels and interact with your professional crews."

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Founded in 1889, Seattle-based Foss Maritime offers a complete range of maritime services and project management to customers across the Pacific Rim, Europe, South America and around the globe. The company has harbor services and transportation operations in all major U.S. West Coast ports, including the Columbia and Snake River system. With one of the largest fleets of tugs and barges on the American West Coast, Foss operates two shipyards and offers worldwide marine transportation, emphasizing safety, environmental responsibility and high-quality service. See www.foss.com for more information.