



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Certificate of Alternate Compliance for USS COOPERSTOWN

(LCS-23)

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Issuance of Certificate of Alternate Compliance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Navy hereby announces that a Certificate of Alternate Compliance has been issued for USS COOPERSTOWN (LCS-23). Due to the special construction and purpose of this vessel, the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (DAJAG) (Admiralty and Maritime Law) has determined it is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot comply fully with the navigation lights provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS) without interfering with its special function as a naval ship. The intended effect of this notice is to warn mariners in waters where 72 COLREGS apply.

DATES: This Certificate of Alternate Compliance is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*] and is applicable beginning November 11, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Commander Steven Gonzales, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Admiralty Attorney, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Admiralty and

Maritime Law Division (Code 11), 1322 Patterson Ave., S.E., Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066, 202-685-5040, or admiralty@navy.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Background and Purpose.

Executive Order 11964 of January 19, 1977 and 33 USC § 1605 provide that the requirements of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), as to the number, position, range, or arc of visibility of lights or shapes, as well as to the disposition and characteristics of sound-signaling appliances, shall not apply to a vessel or class of vessels of the Navy where the Secretary of the Navy shall find and certify that, by reason of special construction or purpose, it is not possible for such vessel(s) to comply fully with the provisions without interfering with the special function of the vessel(s). Notice of issuance of a Certificate of Alternate Compliance must be made in the Federal Register.

In accordance with 33 USC 1605, the DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law), under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Navy, hereby finds and certifies that USS COOPERSTOWN (LCS-23) is a vessel of special construction or purpose, and that, with respect to the position of the following navigational lights, it is not possible to comply fully with the requirements of the provisions enumerated in

the 72 COLREGS without interfering with the special function of the vessel:

Annex I, paragraph 2(a)(i), pertaining to the requirement that the forward masthead light be located at least 12 meters above the upper-most continuous deck; Annex I, paragraph 3(a), pertaining to the requirement that the forward masthead light be placed not more than one quarter of the length of the vessel from the stem; Annex I, paragraph 3(a), pertaining to the requirement that when two masthead lights are prescribed for a power driven vessel, the horizontal distance between them shall not be less than one half the length of the vessel but need not be more than 100 meters. The DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law) further finds and certifies that these navigational lights are in closest possible compliance with the applicable provision of the 72 COLREGS.

Authority: 33 USC 1605(c), E.O. 11964

Approved: November 9, 2020.

K. R. CALLAN,

Commander,

Judge Advocate General's Corps,

U. S. Navy,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.