



**Coast Guard Sector New
York**

**Marine Safety Information
Bulletin - 02-13**

**Vessel Transits Beneath the
Bayonne Bridge**

December 9, 2013



The Bayonne Bridge is undergoing a major construction project which will raise the roadway an average of 65 feet. Major demolition activities are ongoing and work from the roadway level and work platforms outside of the navigable channel present additional safety considerations for mariners.

During construction, ship allisions, including ship antenna strikes similar to those that occurred in the past, may cause severe property damage or loss of life. It is therefore imperative that ships transiting under the Bayonne Bridge know the distance from the ship's keel to the highest point and provide accurate information to the Pilot and the ship's agent for safe navigation. This information is required by Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Section 164.11(k) and should clearly indicate whether any adjustable or whip antennas are included in the calculations. To date, the majority of bridge allisions have been the result of ships' crews either relying on inaccurate information while drafting transit plans or failing to follow approved Safety Management Procedures.

It is the vessel's owner, master, or person in charge's responsibility to verify the accuracy of the information needed to avoid bridge allisions. This is particularly critical during the Bayonne Bridge construction, but should already be common practice in order to keep our waters, property, and the public safe. In accordance with Title 46 United States Code Section 2302, a person operating a vessel in a negligent manner that endangers the life, limb, or property of a person is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty. This could include failure to know the vessel's characteristics, such as air draft, or providing incorrect information to the Pilot.

For current vertical and horizontal clearance information and construction status at the Bayonne Bridge, refer to NOAA Chart 12333 and the First Coast Guard District Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov>.

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