



# Privacy Impact Assessment

for the

# Coast Guard Maritime Information eXchange (CGMIX)

DHS Reference No. DHS/USCG/PIA-022(a)

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Homeland  
Security



## Abstract

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) owns and operates the Coast Guard Maritime Information eXchange (CGMIX) system. CGMIX provides USCG maritime-related information to the public and facilitates information sharing to federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments. USCG is publishing this Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) update because the Contingency Preparedness System (CPS) is now included in the CGMIX system boundary and maintains personally identifiable information (PII).

## Overview

The purpose of the CGMIX website is to make Coast Guard maritime information available on the public internet in the form of searchable databases. Much of the information in the CGMIX website comes from Coast Guard's Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) information system.<sup>1</sup> CGMIX is owned and funded by the USCG Office of Command, Control, Communication and Computers (C4) & Sensor Capabilities (CG-761). CGMIX supports USCG's marine safety, security, environmental protection, and law enforcement program mission areas. CGMIX permits the Coast Guard to accomplish the following statutory requirements: to establish a Marine Safety Information System to collect information on commercial vessels operating in U.S. waters;<sup>2</sup> to establish the Vessel Identification System to make available information on the ownership of documented and state registered vessels;<sup>3</sup> and to make reports of investigations available to the public.<sup>4</sup> CGMIX and its components are listed as data sources on the Data.gov website<sup>5</sup> in response to the Open Government Directive.<sup>6</sup>

CGMIX is being updated to include the Contingency Preparedness System within the CGMIX boundary. CGMIX previously consisted of three web-based applications sharing the same hardware in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ):<sup>7</sup> (1) Vessel Identification System (VIS); (2) Response Resource Inventory (RRI); and (3) the Common Assessment and Reporting Tool (CART). CGMIX includes ten sub-applications, which are discussed below.

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<sup>1</sup> See U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. COAST GUARD, PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE MARINE INFORMATION FOR SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT, DHS/USCG/PIA-008 (2009), available at <https://www.dhs.gov/privacy-documents-us-coast-guard>.

<sup>2</sup> 46 U.S.C. § 3717.

<sup>3</sup> 46 U.S.C. § 12501.

<sup>4</sup> 46 U.S.C. § Part D.

<sup>5</sup> See THE HOME OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S OPEN DATA, available at [Data.gov Home - Data.gov](http://Data.gov).

<sup>6</sup> See EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATE, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, OMB M-10-06, OPEN GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE (2010), available at [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy\\_drupal\\_files/omb/memoranda/2010/m10-06.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy_drupal_files/omb/memoranda/2010/m10-06.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Demilitarized Zone is the perimeter network segment that is logically between internal and external networks that enforces internal network Information Assurance (IA) policy for external information exchange and to provide external untrusted sources with restricted access to releasable information while shielding the internal networks from outside attacks.



CGMIX also makes non-sensitive pollution incident reports available to the general public and does not require a login for access to this information. Data in the CGMIX application is derived from the USCG Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement and the National Response Center's Incident Reporting Information System (IRIS),<sup>8</sup> and is scrubbed to remove personally identifiable information and any sensitive data prior to posting.

By making information in CGMIX directly available to the public, CGMIX provides information outside of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process, expedites delivery of the information to the requestor, and provides transparency of Coast Guard missions. CGMIX and its sub-applications were developed to address the frequency of requests for related information and to support extraction of that information from the source database, typically, the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement system.

### *Vessel Identification System (VIS)*

The Vessel Identification System is the USCG repository for U.S. state registered recreation vessels. The data in the Vessel Identification System consists of registration and ownership data from participating states and the USCG National Vessel Documentation Center. Vessel Identification System data is only accessible to numbering and titling, registration, and law enforcement personnel of Vessel Identification System participating states and federal agencies.<sup>9</sup> The Vessel Identification System contains owner and vessel information on vessels registered or titled by a state or territorial government and requires a user log-in for access. The Vessel Identification System is also available to all Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement system users. The Vessel Identification System collects vessel registration data (e.g., name, address, date of birth, Social Security number (SSN), driver's license number, and tax identification number (TIN))<sup>10</sup> of the vessel owner from vessel registration databases of states that have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the USCG.

A typical Vessel Identification System search begins with the user accessing the Vessel Identification System website and entering their credentials. The user submits search criteria (e.g., owner first or last name, vessel name, registration number) to conduct a Vessel Identification System search. When a match is found, the system returns the owner's name, date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license number, address, and tax identification number. The system also provides data associated with the vessel (e.g., name, primary use, length), law enforcement

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<sup>8</sup> See U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. COAST GUARD, PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE INCIDENT REPORTING INFORMATION SYSTEM (IRIS), DHS/USCG/PIA-023 (2015 and subsequent updates), available at <https://www.dhs.gov/privacy-documents-us-coast-guard>.

<sup>9</sup> See <https://cgmix.uscg.mil/VISInformation.aspx> for a list of participating states.

<sup>10</sup> Taxpayer identification number is the number used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to uniquely identify a taxpayer. If the vessel owner is an individual, the taxpayer identification number is the Social Security number. If the vessel owner is a corporation or other organization, the IRS assigns a unique taxpayer identification number to that entity.



infractions (e.g., date reported stolen, vessel insurance number, insurance company name), historical registration (e.g., previous title or state number, previous issuing state), and lien and title information (i.e., title number, effective title date, name and address of each secured party, lien holder).

### *Response Resource Inventory (RRI)*

The Response Resource Inventory is a web-based application that Oil Spill Recovery Organizations (OSRO)<sup>11</sup> use to submit and edit available pollution response equipment inventories. The Response Resource Inventory requires a user log-in for access and is available to USCG personnel assigned to the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) and any Oil Spill Recovery Organizations authorized to submit pollution response equipment inventories by the National Strike Force Coordination Center. Oil Spill Recovery Organizations may submit, edit, and review inventories they have available for disaster response. Authorized personnel access the Response Resource Inventory via a multifactor sign-in solution, through which users are authenticated by username, password, and a one-time-passcode (OTP), which is auto-generated.

### *Common Assessment and Reporting Tool (CART)*

The Common Assessment and Reporting Tool is an application used to report and document the Marine Transportation System (MTS) status following a transportation disruption significantly affecting the Marine Transportation System that will, or is anticipated to, last longer than 72 hours. The Common Assessment and Reporting Tool requires a user log-in and is available only to USCG personnel and Marine Transportation System stakeholders (i.e., local, federal, and state personnel) in the Captain of the Port zone impacted by a pollution incident or marine casualty. The system administrator at each Captain of the Port manages Common Assessment and Reporting Tool user accounts, including account approvals, account deletions, and assignment of roles to accounts.

USCG personnel and stakeholders access the Common Assessment and Reporting Tool via a web browser from their computer. After entering their username and password, users can perform the following tasks:

- Provide timely and accurate information on pre-incident conditions in a sector or other local unit's area of responsibility;
- Facilitate the comparison of pre-incident (baseline) data and post-incident data to characterize the extent of the impact on the Marine Transportation System;

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<sup>11</sup> The Oil Spill Recovery Organization is a voluntary program established by the USCG and was developed to assist oil-handling facilities and vessels prepare spill response plans.



- Generate Marine Transportation System Executive Summary Reports to ease information sharing with local, regional, and national level Marine Transportation System stakeholders; and
- Document and share Marine Transportation System recovery status and impact reports in near real-time at all organizational levels.

CGMIX also includes ten public-facing, searchable modules (sub-applications) to share maritime-related Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement data with the public. The modules are available to the public at <https://cgmix.uscg.mil/>:

- 1) **USCG Approved Equipment Listing (EQList):** The USCG Approved Equipment module contains searchable listings of equipment and materials approved or certified by the USCG for use on commercial vessels and recreational boats such as life jackets, fire extinguishers, and navigation systems. EQList does not maintain personally identifiable information. Entities interested in having their product included in EQList must submit an application to the USCG Office of Design Engineering (CG-ENE). CG-ENE personnel enter data from the approved applications into the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement system.
- 2) **USCG Accepted Laboratories:** The Accepted Independent Material and Equipment Laboratories Database (EQLabs) is an online searchable database that contains a listing of USCG Accepted Laboratories for testing of materials and equipment. It is intended for use by manufacturers of commercial and recreational safety equipment and material to locate and contact USCG accepted independent laboratories for testing purposes for USCG Type Approval.
- 3) **USCG Lifteraft Servicing Facilities:** An online searchable database containing a listing of USCG accepted liferaft servicing facilities, which includes the business contact information of the facilities.
- 4) **Port State Information eXchange (PSIX):** Port State Information eXchange contains detailed information related to a vessel's length, breadth, depth, documentation, certifications, deficiency information, and interactions (e.g., boardings, inspections, investigations, response actions) with USCG. Only non-sensitive fields<sup>12</sup> are disseminated to the public. Users may query by vessel name,

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<sup>12</sup> Non-sensitive fields are data fields within the system known not to contain personally identifiable information or other information that is not releasable to the public (e.g., For Official Use Only, Law Enforcement Sensitive). Those fields are known not to contain sensitive information because they are either list fields or are field types (such as date fields) that cannot contain sensitive information. The only exception to this is the Incident Brief, which is a free form text field. However, the text fields are manually reviewed and scrubbed for personally identifiable information before release.



vessel number, hull identification number, vessel call sign, vessel flag, vessel service, or vessel build year.

- 5) **XML Web Services:** XML Web Services exposes data<sup>13</sup> provided by the Port State Information eXchange, USCG Approved Equipment, and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Certificates of Adequacy<sup>14</sup> modules to provide users the ability to integrate these searches into their own applications. To access the XML Web Services module, users click on the XML Web Services link from CGMIX, review the Service Definitions for that module, then write the code for the operation they wish to execute.
- 6) **Security Plan Review:** Security Plan Review provides vessel and facility operators the ability to check on the status of their security plans submitted to the USCG. Users must provide the tracking number they received when they submitted their security plan to obtain results.
- 7) **Incident Investigation Reports (IIR):** The Incident Investigation Reports (IIR) module is an on-line searchable interface for external users to retrieve information about reportable marine casualties<sup>15</sup> that were investigated and have a closed status in the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement system. The investigation data may contain information about involved organizations, vessels, or facilities. This data is sanitized of any personally identifiable information or sensitive information prior to posting to CGMIX. The user may query the Incident Investigation Reports module by entering an activity number, date range, vessel service, name of the involved vessel/organization/facility, or keyword. The Incident Investigation Reports module provides information outside of the Freedom of Information Act process and meets the investigation report publication requirements of 46 U.S.C. § Part D.
- 8) **International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Certificates of Adequacy:** The MARPOL Certificates of Adequacy

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<sup>13</sup> “Exposes data” means that the utility facilitates copying the data to other systems. It is the same data that is otherwise available from Port State Information eXchange. However, it avoids the need to make individual queries for the data. This service was requested by members of the public that use Port State Information eXchange data in their own database applications.

<sup>14</sup> See Module 8.

<sup>15</sup> USCG is required to investigate marine casualties in accordance with 46 U.S.C. § 6301 and prepare reports of those investigations in accordance with 46 U.S.C. § 6305. The CGMIX Incident Investigation Report (IIR) meets the mandate in 46 U.S.C. § 6101(i) to publish reports of investigation in an electronic format. It states, “[t]he Secretary shall, as soon as possible, and no later than January 1, 2005, publish all marine casualty reports prepared in accordance with this section in an electronic form.” A separate section, 46 U.S.C. § 6101(b), requires vessel operators to report marine casualties to the Coast Guard. However, the investigation reports for each incident prepared by the Coast Guard are posted, not the vessel operator reports to the Coast Guard.



module disseminates the name, address, phone number, and the Captain of the Port zone for facilities that comply with the requirements of Annexes I, II, and V of the 1978 Protocol to the MARPOL. This allows users to search for certified waste reception facilities and provides the facility location and types of waste accepted by the facility. The information is entered into the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement system by USCG personnel when they issue the MARPOL certifications. Facilities interested in certification as a MARPOL reception facility should contact the nearest Captain of the Port for certification requirements.

**9) National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) Packet Status:** A method for individuals and organizations of the maritime community to check the status of applications submitted to the National Vessel Documentation Center for services (i.e., Certificate of Documentation, Abstract of Title, Renewals). Users enter specific vessel information and are provided the vessel official number, hull identification number, and file date/time to confirm their application was received. This database module does not contain or disseminate Personally Identifiable Information.

**10) National Response Center/Incident Reporting Information System (IRIS):**<sup>16</sup> Provides non-sensitive pollution incident reports to the public and does not require a login for access. Data is derived from the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement system and Incident Reporting Information System and is scrubbed to remove personally identifiable information and any sensitive data prior to posting.

CGMIX safeguards personally identifiable information by user authentication, user access agreements, collecting only data elements legally authorized to be collected, and ensuring compliance with USCG, DHS, and Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) system security policies.

## Reason for the PIA Update

This Privacy Impact Assessment is being updated to include the Contingency Preparedness System (CPS) in the CGMIX system boundary. CGMIX was designated the proper hosting designation for CPS because of CGMIX's database size and the technical support required for CPS. Additionally, CGMIX has the proper security protocols and technical expertise in place if CPS has future needs to share data with external DHS offices or the public.

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<sup>16</sup> See U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. COAST GUARD, PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE INCIDENT REPORTING INFORMATION SYSTEM (IRIS), DHS/USCG/PIA-023 (2015 and subsequent updates), available at <https://www.dhs.gov/privacy-documents-us-coast-guard>.



## *Contingency Preparedness System (CPS)*

The Contingency Preparedness System is the application that supports the Coast Guard After Action Program (CGAAP). CPS provides the functionality required by the USCG to rapidly retrieve data on contingency exercises and actual events, lessons learned, and associated corrective actions. This enables contingency plan improvement and rapid response to senior leader, DHS, and congressional queries regarding the fulfillment of the Coast Guard's legislative and policy mandated exercise requirements. The lessons learned, best practices, and corrective actions documented in CPS are searchable by any authorized user of CGMIX. CPS content is used to inform emergent contingency response operations, support policy development and revision, and increase senior leader awareness of challenges and opportunities for improvement to Coast Guard contingency response operations. CPS contains USCG personnel names, work addresses, work email addresses, and work telephone numbers, which are included in after action reports to designate a point of contact for each report.

## **Privacy Impact Analysis**

### **Authorities and Other Requirements**

The following specific legal authorities are included for the Contingency Preparedness System:

- 6 U.S.C § 748 authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator<sup>17</sup> in coordination with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, the National Council on Disability, and the National Advisory Council, to carry out a national training program to implement the national preparedness goal, National Incident Management System, National Response Plan, and other related plans and strategies.
- 10 U.S.C § 321 authorizes the U.S. armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense to train with the military forces or other security forces of a friendly foreign country if the Secretary determines that it is in the national security interest of the United States to do so.
- 6 U.S.C. § 913 authorizes the U.S. Coast Guard to require each high-risk facility to conduct live or full-scale exercises.
- 44 U.S.C. § 3501 and the Open Government Directive authorize the USCG to provide information to the public and reduce paper usage.

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<sup>17</sup> See 6. U.S.C. § 311 (1) and (2).





- 46 U.S.C. § 12501 authorizes the USCG to establish a Vessel Identification System and to make the ownership of documented, numbered, and state titled vessels available to law enforcement.
- 46 U.S.C. § 12503 authorizes collection of social security numbers of vessel owners in the Vessel Identification System.
- 46 C.F.R. 159.010-5 authorizes the collection of information from applicants seeking to be identified as USCG Accepted Laboratories.
- 46 C.F.R. 160.151-41 authorizes the collection of information from applicants seeking to be identified as a USCG “approved servicing facility” for inflatable liferafts.
- USCG-approved equipment is authorized under the U.S.-European Commission (EC) Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) and the U.S.-European Economic Area (EEA) European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Mutual Recognition Agreement.<sup>18</sup>
- 46 C.F.R. Part 4, Subpart 4.05 Notice of Marine Casualty and Voyage records authorizes USCG to collect incident investigation reports. For CGMIX, these reports are limited to reportable marine casualty data as defined in 46 U.S.C. Subtitle II, Part D Chapter 61 (h). 46 CFR Part 4, Subpart 4.13 public availability addresses public access to marine casualty and investigation records.
- The National Response Center database module is authorized to collect data under 40 CFR 300.125(a), which establishes USCG as the single point of contact for all pollution incident reporting, and 40 CFR 300.125(c), which authorizes USCG to collect information and receive notification about oil or hazardous substances. The information is provided to the National Response Center Duty Officer, located at USCG Headquarters.
- Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) 2020 establishes the principles for exercise and evaluation programs, as well as a common approach to exercise program management, design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning.
- Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) of 2002 and the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act (SAFE Port Act) of 2006 authorize the collection and dissemination of information to federal, state, and USCG partners approved to access the Common Assessment Reporting Tool.

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<sup>18</sup> For more information, see <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg5214/mra.asp>.



## Characterization of the Information

CGMIX collects information from established relationships and associations with vessels, marine transportation facilities, and activities regulated by USCG. Specifically, established relationships and associations include those with vessel owners, operators, charterers, masters, crew and/or agents, mortgagees, lien claimants, vessel builders, facility owners, managers or employees, individuals who own, operate, or represent marine transportation companies, and other individuals who come in contact with the USCG through its law enforcement, marine safety, investigation, and environmental activities.

The Contingency Preparedness System maintains the following personally identifiable information:

- Employee name;
- Employee work address;
- Employee work phone; and
- Employee work email.

## Uses of the Information

There are no updates related to uses of information. There are no new privacy risks associated with uses of information.

## Notice

USCG is providing general notice of the inclusion of the Contingency Preparedness System in CGMIX through this Privacy Impact Assessment update.

## Data Retention by the Project

The records retention schedule for the Contingency Preparedness System is number N1-026-05-014:

1. Exercise Records: Delete when data has been verified and no longer needed for reference.
2. Contingency Plans: Delete when data has been verified and no longer needed for reference.
3. After Action Reports and Lessons Learned: Delete when data has been verified and no longer needed for reference.
4. Exercise and Plans Data: Delete 20 years after cutoff, or when no longer needed for reference, whichever is later.



5. Standard After Action Information and Lessons Learned System (CG-SAILS): Permanent, transfer to NARA every third calendar year.
6. Outputs: Destroy when no longer needed for administrative use.
7. System Documentation: Permanent, transfer to NARA any updates.
8. Electronic Mail and Word Processing System Copies: Delete within 180 days after recordkeeping copy has been made. Delete when dissemination, revision, or updating is complete for copies used for dissemination, revision, or update.

## Information Sharing

There are no updates related to information sharing. There are no new privacy risks associated with information sharing.

## Redress

An individual may seek access to their records by filing a Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act request. Only U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and covered citizens of designated foreign countries or regional economic integration organizations under the Judicial Redress Act (JRA) are afforded access under the Privacy Act. Individuals not covered by the Privacy Act or Judicial Redress Act may still obtain access to records consistent with Freedom of Information Act requests unless disclosure is prohibited by law or if the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption. An individual may file a Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act request electronically at <https://www.dhs.gov/foia>. Individuals may also submit requests to the USCG Freedom of Information Act Officer by mail, facsimile, or email:

Commandant (CG-6P)  
Attn: FOIA/PA Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2703 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. SE STOP 7710  
Washington, D.C. 20593-7710  
Fax: (202) 372-8413  
[eFOIA@uscg.mil](mailto:eFOIA@uscg.mil)

To conform to the Privacy Act regulations set forth in 6 CFR Part 5, the individual must first verify their identity, including their full name, current address, and date and place of birth. The individual must sign the request. The individual's signature must either be notarized or submitted under 28 U.S.C. § 1746, a law that permits statements to be made under penalty of perjury as a substitute for notarization. In addition, the individual should:

- explain why they believe the USCG would have the information being requested;
- specify when the individual believes the records would have been created; and



- if the request is seeking records pertaining to another living individual, the request must include an authorization from the individual whose record is being requested, authorizing the release to the requester.

Without the above information, the USCG may not be able to conduct an effective search, and the individual's request may be denied due to lack of specificity or lack of compliance with applicable regulations. All or some of the requested information may be exempt from access pursuant to the Privacy Act to prevent harm to law enforcement investigations or interests. Providing an individual access to these records could inform the target of an actual or potential criminal, civil, or regulatory investigation or reveal investigative interest on the part of DHS or another agency. However, USCG evaluates requests for access and redress on a case-by-case basis.

### **Auditing and Accountability**

This update does not impact auditing and accountability. There are no new privacy risks associated with auditing and accountability.

## **Contact Official**

LCDR Myles Richardson  
C5I Sponsor Representative  
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## **Responsible Official**

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## **Approval Signature**

Original, signed version on file at the DHS Privacy Office.

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