

CHAPTER 9

Inspection of Aids to Navigation

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
9-1 DISTRICT INSPECTIONS AND CHECKS.....	9-1
9-1-1 General.....	9-1
9-1-5 Inspection.....	9-1
9-1-10 Checks.....	9-2
9-1-15 Annual Report.....	9-2

9-1 DISTRICT INSPECTIONS AND CHECKS

9-1-1 General—

A. A most important factor in the successful maintenance of the present large and intricate system of aids is the observation and checking that can be done by the various units of the Coast Guard, and, in order that deficiencies may be corrected with the greatest possible dispatch, it is essential that the personnel of the Service be continually alert in making observations and reporting matters which should receive prompt attention.

B. *Inspection.*—The term “inspection” as used herein means to view or examine closely and critically the operating features and methods, care and upkeep, administration, and general overall efficiency of an unattended aid to navigation or an attended aid to navigation operating unit or facility. It is an examination as conducted by the District Commander or his delegated representative and is not a part of the routine surveillance or check of the operation of an aid by field personnel.

C. *How often to inspect.*—The District Commander shall require a thorough general inspection of each attended aid to navigation unit of facility at least once each year. One of such inspections shall be made personally by the Chief of the Aids to Navigation Section at least every 2 years.

D. All unattended aids to navigation on fixed structures, including class I and II private aids to navigation and navigation lights on group I bridges, shall be inspected at least once each year. The inspection of these aids to navigation may be delegated to commanding officers or officers in charge of district Coast Guard units in the locality.

E. Inspection of class III private aids to navigation and navigation lights on group II bridges need not be made oftener than once every 3 years except in the case of complaints, or more frequent inspections are found convenient in connection with other work. These inspections may be delegated in the same manner as the inspections referred to above.

9-1-5 Inspection—

A. *Inspection details.*—In making inspections of depots, light and fog signal stations, daybeacons and minor lights, buoys, etc., the following, where applicable, should be observed by the representatives of the District Commander.

(1) Conformance of operating characteristic of light, fog signal, radiobeacon, and description with that authorized for the station.

(2) Repairs needed.

(3) Renovations and improvements needed.

(4) The condition of the grounds and enclosures.

(5) The condition and cleanliness of the lantern, inside and outside.

(6) The condition of the illuminating apparatus, its cleanliness, adjustment, and state of preservation.

(7) The condition of the lamps, burners, supplies, and implements.

(8) The system, order, and cleanliness of the storerooms, oil rooms, and steps and the floors of the towers and in the dwelling houses.

(9) The condition of the spare lamps, burners, and other parts of machinery or apparatus.

(10) The condition of the fog signal and radiobeacon and the machinery for operating them.

(11) The condition, arrangement, and care of supplies, with special reference to quality and quantity on hand.

(12) The state of the records which are required to be kept at the unit.

(13) The record of absences of personnel and prevention of the abuse thereof.

(14) The attention of the men to their duties and their ability to perform them well.

B. *Aids to Navigation Operation Bill, posting of.*—The person making the inspection shall see that the Aids to Navigation Operation Bill (form CG-2814) is properly completed and that it is kept posted under glass at each attended aids to navigation unit operating one or more of the aids covered thereon.

C. Instruction to be given.—When necessary, the person making the inspection should explain to commanding officers and officers in charge of units the manner of attending to the illuminating, fog-signal and radiobeacon apparatus, as well as all other equipment at the station or on the vessel, and the manner of keeping the necessary official records and of making proper reports and returns. When necessary they should also give instruction in the use of the tools and implements and in the daily and nightly routine duties of the service.

(1) The officer making an operational inspection shall determine at the time, by actual tests if considered necessary, the capability of each man present to handle the apparatus properly and make necessary adjustments in case of defective functioning.

(2) When a piece of apparatus is found out of adjustment every effort shall be made to put it in proper working order before the inspecting officer leaves the unit, and if this is found impracticable by reason of a structural or other defect, and the aid to navigation still fails to function properly, the District Commander shall immediately issue appropriate Notices to Mariners. He shall then take immediate measures for the necessary repairs.

D. District inspection reports.—District Commanders shall compile the results of district operational inspections of aids to navigation units and aids in systematic form for reference. The inspection check-off lists prepared by the Inspector General have been promulgated as the standard inspection form for district inspections.

9-1-10 Checks—

A. District Commanders shall keep the matter of checking aids before the units under their command that are in a position to assist, inviting special attention to the following:

(1) *Correct position of floating aids.*—When believed incorrect, make check by soundings and by observing sextant angles for comparison with records in the District Offices.

(2) *Correct characteristics of aids,* including color, light period, shape; and in the case of radio-beacons, identifying code, speed of transmission, frequency, and adherence to schedule; for fog signals, character, length and frequency of blasts.

(3) *Character of attendance;* operation of light, fog signal, and radiobeacon under all weather conditions which require such operation, and in accordance with published information to mariners; proper painting of daymarks and character of general upkeep, as may be determined by passing observations.

(4) *Behavior of floating aids;* watching of buoys under tide conditions, evidence of fouled moorings, behavior in seaway, etc.

(5) *Damage to aids.*—For assistance of the District Office in securing acknowledgment of liability on the part of the responsible vessel and making collection for the amount of damage, cases of observed collisions with aids to be promptly and fully reported.

(6) *Bridge lights.*—Check conformity of lighting with the published regulations for lighting bridges,

any observed discrepancies to be promptly reported to the District Commander and to the responsible owner insofar as practicable.

(7) *Private aids.*—Consider adherence of the aids to the authorizations for them issued by the Coast Guard, to the regulations for lighting bridges and to the published Light Lists. Observe their general status as to adequacy of maintenance.

B. Unattended aids.—With respect to floating aids to navigation and automatic lights not under the care of personnel resident in the locality, reliance for essential attendance must be placed mainly in tenders. With respect to most aids, careful checking as outlined above should insure that the District Commander will be advised by his own units of any unsatisfactory maintenance or operating condition which may exist, thus permitting prompt action in arranging for correction.

9-1-15 Annual Report—

A. The District Commander shall report annually (to reach Commandant (OAN) not later than the 15th of February each year) a brief summary of the work performed during the preceding calendar year in regard to the relief of buoys and inspection of fixed aids to navigation. This report shall include the following:

(1) A statement relative to action taken to adjust the buoy relief schedule when the number of buoys not relieved exceeds 10 percent of the total number of buoys within the district to be relieved during that year.

(2) A list of buoys not relieved during the last 2 calendar years.

(3) A list of Coast Guard aids to navigation not inspected during the last calendar year together with the reasons for not inspecting them should be included in the report.

(4) A tabulation of the results of the district's aids to navigation inspection and buoy relief program. The tabulation is to be as shown below.

*Summary of inspection and relief for year ending
31 December 19—*

ANNUAL

	Total number in district	Total number inspected
Fog signal stations		
Light attendant stations		
Light stations		
Lightships		
Loran monitor stations		
Loran transmitting stations		
Radarbeacon stations		
Radiobeacon stations		
Unattended Coast Guard aids on fixed structures		
Class I and II private aids		
Group I bridges		

BIENNIAL

	Total number in district	Total number relieved	
		Current year	Previous year
Lighted buoys (all types)			
Unlighted buoys (all types)			

INDEX

A	Page	I	Page
Aids to navigation operation bill.....	9-1	Inspection.....	9-1
C		Definition.....	9-1
Checks.....	9-2	Details to observe.....	9-1
By all units.....	9-2	How often required.....	9-1
Details to observe.....	9-2	Reports.....	9-2
D		Instruction to be given.....	9-1
District Commander's annual report.....	9-2	Apparatus out of adjustment.....	9-2
		Capability of personnel.....	9-2