

Department of Ecology Guidance on Repainting Load Lines while in Washington State Waters

July 2010

The Department of Ecology has determined that load (Plimsoll) line painting does not require a permit and need not be done at a permitted shipyard, especially if the vessel operator has been instructed to repaint a load line by the United States Coast Guard (USCG). Please be sure that necessary Best Management Practices (BMPs) are followed, and material from the operation is prevented from reaching state waters.

When repainting a load (Plimsoll) line outside of a permitted shipyard, the vessel operator must ensure that all of the following containment, collection, and spill prevention BMPs are in place:

- The work area is limited to the load line as per the vessel's International Load Line Certificate.
- The work area is at least five feet above the surface of the water.
- Containment such as tarpaulins, drapes, shrouding, or other protective devices are securely fastened to collect all dust, debris, flakes, chips, and paint drippings.
- All collected materials are removed from containment, immediately on task completion, in order to prevent their release into the environment and entry into waters of the state.
- All necessary precautions are taken by personnel onboard a float (free-floating, unattached work platforms) to prevent paints or cleaning materials from entering the water from the float.
- Mechanical hand preparation, such as scraping or wire brushing, is the only surface preparation.
- The mixing of paints and solvents is carried out in locations and under conditions such that no spill can enter state waters.
- Paint and solvent spills are treated as oil spills and prevented from entering into the water.
- All containers of paint are provided with secondary spill containment when in use. All roller pans must also be provided with secondary spill containment. Secondary spill containment capacity is equal to the entire volume of the container plus ten percent of the volume of that same container.
- Containers of paint used over water contain no more than one-half gallon.
- Only brushes or rollers are used for painting load lines.
- Documentation requirements will consist of one or more representative photographs of all surface preparation operations, and all painting operations. The vessel operator must date all such photographs and maintain them in a logbook, with all necessary descriptive narrative of the in-water vessel maintenance BMPs. The vessel operator must make these records available to an Ecology inspector upon request, and must retain them for at least three years.

Use of a permitted shipyard is required when the BMPs above cannot be followed

If any of these BMPs cannot be done as described, the vessel must immediately go to a permitted shipyard before repainting a load line. Ports or the USCG may know of convenient permitted shipyards. Otherwise:

- Call the Southwest Regional Office at 360-407-6300 to get assistance in finding a permitted shipyard -
 - in Puget Sound in the Tacoma area and to the south,
 - along the Strait of Juan de Fuca,
 - along the outer coast, or
 - in the Columbia River.
- Call the Northwest Regional Office at 425-649-7000 to get assistance in finding a permitted shipyard in Puget Sound north of Tacoma to the border with Canada.