bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

Latitude N.	Longitude W.
28°15′00″,	94°35'00", thence to
27°40′00″,	94°35'00", thence to
27°40′00″,	94°00'00", thence to
28°33′00″,	94°00′00″
and thence to the point of beginning.	

(b) *Flower Garden—prohibited area.* This prohibited area consist of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

Latitude N.	Longitude W.	
27°40′00″,	94°00'00", thence to	
28°18′00″,	94°00'00", thence to	
28°18′00″,	92°38'00", thence to	
28°30′00″,	92°38'00", thence to	
28°15′00″,	91°30'00", thence to	
27°40′00″,	91°30′00″	
and thence to the point of beginning.		

(c) *Ewing—prohibited area.* This prohibited area consists of the waters bounded by a line connecting the following points beginning at:

01	0 0
Latitude N.	Longitude W.
27°53′00″,	91°30'00", thence to
28°15′00″,	91°30'00", thence to
28°15′00″,	90°10'00", thence to
27°53′00″,	90°10′00″
and thenes to the	no point of hoginating

and thence to the point of beginning.

§156.320 Minimum operating conditions.

Unless otherwise specified, the minimum operating conditions in this section apply to tank vessels operating within the lightering zones designated in this subpart.

(a) A tank vessel shall not moor or remain moored alongside another vessel when any of the following conditions exist:

(1) When wind, waves, and swell are from the same direction and—

(i) The wind velocity is 56 km/hr (30 knots) or more;

(ii) The wave height is 3 meters (10 feet) or more; or

(iii) The swell height is 3 meters (10 feet) or more.

(2) When wind and waves differ in direction by 30 degrees or more to swell and—

(i) The wind velocity is 46.3 km/hr (25 knots) or more;

(ii) The wave height is 1.8 meters (6 feet) or more; or

(iii) The swell height is 1.5 meters (5 feet) or more.

(b) Service vessels and vessels to be lightered shall not conduct lightering operations and shall not remain moored alongside when the National Weather Service predicts that the center of a hurricane will pass within 296 km (160 nautical miles) of current or expected location of lightering operations within the next 36 hours.

§156.330 Operational restrictions.

Unless otherwise specified in this subpart or when otherwise authorized by the cognizant COTP or District Commander, the master of a vessel lightering in the zones designated in this subpart shall ensure that the following operational restrictions are complied with:

(a) Lightering operations shall be conducted in accordance with OCIMF Ship to Ship Transfer Guide (Petroleum), Second Edition, 1988.

(b) Helicopter operations shall be conducted in accordance with International Chamber of Shipping's Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations, Third Edition, 1989.

(c) The master of the vessel to be lightered shall ensure a voice warning is made prior to the commencement of lightering activities via channel 13 VHF and 2182 Khz.

(d) In the event of a communications failure between the lightering vessels or the respective persons-in-charge of the transfer, or an equipment failure affecting the vessel's cargo handling capability or ship's maneuverability, the master of the affected vessel shall suspend lightering activities and shall sound at least five short, rapid blasts on the vessel's whistle. Lightering activities shall remain suspended until corrective action has been completed.

(e) No vessel involved in a lightering operation may open its cargo system until the vessel to be lightered is securely moored alongside the servicing vessel.

(f) If any vessel not involved in the lightering operation or support activities approaches within 300 feet of vessels engaged in lightering activities, the vessel engaged in lightering shall warn the approaching vessel by sounding a loud hailer, ship's whistle, or any other appropriate means.

(g) No vessels, other than the lightering tender, supply boat, or crew boat which are equipped with spark arrestors on their exhaust(s), may moor alongside a vessel engaged in lightering operations.

(h) When lightering at anchor, lightering operations shall not be conducted within 1 nautical mile of offshore structures or mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs).

(i) When lightering underway, lightering operations shall not be conducted within 3 nautical miles of offshore structures or MODUs.

(j) No vessel engaged in lightering activities may anchor over pipelines, charted artificial reefs or historical resources.

(k) All vessels engaged in lightering activities shall be capable of immediate maneuver at all times while inside a designated lightering zone. The main propulsion system must not be disabled at any time.

Dated: December 28, 1994.

A.E. Henn,

Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Commandant.

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