

## **Regulatory Trainwreck**

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### **Abstract**

The roles of the bodies that regulate the maritime and offshore energy industries have been changing in recent years. Functions that were once exclusively governmental are being ceded to private organizations who are being asked to regulate companies that are paying them to do so. Conflicts of interest are bound to arise. At the same time, governmental entities are imposing more costly and time consuming rules and requirements, but have less and less understanding of the effects and effectiveness of the new rules. Changes in the recruiting, training, and experience levels of USCG inspection personnel are discussed. Examples of good and bad regulatory action are offered. The conflict between industry viability and excessive governmental oversight needs to be examined and responded to by the marine and offshore industry. Some suggestions are offered for action by companies and trade associations.

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