

FLAG VOICE #522
Coast Guard Safe Homes Initiative Update
“Keeping our people safe; complying with new federal standards”

This Flag Voice is provided as an update to the Coast Guard Safe Homes Initiative (SHI). In my last Flag Voice on SHI, I described the Coast Guard’s efforts to assess all Coast Guard owned family housing built prior to 1979 to ensure compliance with new standards for lead based dust that took effect in January 2020. To date, all of the Coast Guard’s 1200+ family houses constructed prior pre-1979 have been funded for a state certified environmental risk assessment. The vast majority of these houses are now under contract and are being scheduled for assessment.

Due to complications presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, SHI assessments have been delayed in many locations. ALCOAST 072/20 prohibited at-risk families (defined as pregnant women and children under the age of seven) from moving into Coast Guard owned housing constructed prior to 1979 that have not been assessed and determined to be in compliance with the new 2020 Environmental Protection Agency lead dust standards. As a result of unforeseen delays, some at-risk families in receipt of PCS orders to remote seasonal type locations may not be able to find suitable community based housing.

ALCOAST 072/20 outlined several housing flexibility options for at-risk families transferring to locations where Coast Guard owned housing is not readily available. In the event these options are not feasible, the Coast Guard is amending previous guidance to allow Area Housing Authorities, on a case by case basis, to request a waiver to assign an at-risk family to pre-1979 constructed Coast Guard owned family housing that is pending assessment. CG-13 will send detailed guidance on the waiver process to Area Housing Authorities separately.

Support and communication continue to be key components of SHI. Our goal is to provide all of our service members and their families with timely support and accurate information as they navigate this year’s PCS season. We continue to post updates on the SHI website, at <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Safe-Homes-Initiative/>. We will be releasing an ALCOAST shortly to formally announce this change to ALCOAST 072/20.



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