



FAQ – Spill Management Team Certification - AB 1197

1. When will the legislation take effect? The statute will take effect on January 1, 2018, but regulations will need to be adopted for program implementation.
2. What are the primary provisions of the law? Major provisions of AB 1197 are:
 - The Administrator of OSPR will: establish criteria for certifying an SMT based on the SMT's capacity to respond to spills and manage spills effectively; review applications for SMT certification; certify SMTs, as specified; and adopt regulations to implement provisions as appropriate.
 - The Administrator may charge a reasonable administrative fee to process an application for, or renewal of, a certification.
 - An SMT may apply to the Administrator for a certification of its response capabilities.
 - An oil spill contingency plan submitted by a vessel owner or operator will be required to identify at least one SMT that is certified pursuant to regulations that will be promulgated. The SMT may be contracted or provided by the owner or operator.
3. Who within OSPR will be the lead for this process?
 - The OSPR Preparedness Branch is the lead for implementing the program. [Ms. Yvonne Addassi](#), Chief of the Preparedness Branch, is currently the point person for program implementation.
4. What is the current timeline for the regulatory process?
 - Prior to the formal regulatory process, OSPR anticipates holding informal Scoping Meetings with industry and interested parties. OSPR is looking at holding the first meetings in January and potentially coordinating the timing with the Contingency Plan Regulation Public hearings.
 - Following the Scoping Meetings, OSPR will circulate an informal draft of regulations for comment.
 - OSPR anticipates the formal rulemaking process beginning Spring 2018 with the hopes of having the regulations submitted to the Office of Administrative Law by the end of year 2018.
 - OSPR anticipates a 60-90 day application submission period following regulatory adoption; likely in early 2019.

AB 1197 bill language: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1197