

**For Release:**  
March, 2013

**Contact:**  
John Groundwater | 703.518.5005

## **PVA and Coast Guard Sign Agreement on Fire Protection Guidelines Critical to U.S. Shipyards**

**Alexandria, VA** - On Monday, February 18, 2013 during the PVA Annual Convention at MariTrends 2013, in Jacksonville, FL, the Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) and the U.S. Coast Guard signed an agreement on policy regarding Coast Guard approval of fire protection for newly constructed high-speed vessels. This agreement is critical to the U.S. shipbuilding industry to ensure delivery of Coast Guard-approved high-speed passenger vessels.

The agreement, the product of a chartered working group of experienced PVA member industry experts and Coast Guard policy specialists, details guidelines for pre-approved design criteria including seating arrangements and space dimensions. This solution allows boat builders to meet the standards of fire safety while facilitating the building of lightweight high-speed aluminum vessels, currently in strong demand.

"This agreement ensures high fire protection standards for the safety of passengers and vessels but also provides a pathway for vessel designers, builders, and owners to obtain Coast Guard approval of their building plans," said PVA President Paul Belforti. "It returns confidence to the market in that vessels of this type can now be constructed cost effectively."

The revisions to Coast Guard Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 9-97-1 were produced utilizing research advances in fire modeling from the designs of working vessels to most accurately test dimensions and configurations with performance-based engineering analysis.

### **About the Passenger Vessel Association**

The Passenger Vessel Association is the national association representing the interests of owners and operators of dinner cruise vessels, sightseeing and excursion vessels, car and passenger ferries, gaming vessels, private charter boats, whale watching and eco-tour vessels, day-sailers and windjammer sailing vessels, overnight cruise ships and amphibious DUKW. PVA members operate U.S. Coast Guard certificated, Canadian Coast Guard or state inspected vessels. The passenger vessel industry carries more than 200 million passengers each year. Visit PVA on the Internet at: [www.passengervessel.com](http://www.passengervessel.com).

