



Bunkering in Washington State

Spills Prevention, Preparedness & Response

This focus sheet summarizes the Washington-specific requirements for vessels bunkering in our waters. The full list of requirements for bunkering vessels is described in [Chapter 317-40 WAC](#).

Safe Access

An accommodation ladder must be in place prior to the start of the transfer. If the master determines the ladder is inaccessible, a SOLAS approved pilot ladder can be used. (WAC 317-40-050)



Point-of-transfer watch and deck rover

Oil transfer procedure must designate a point-of-transfer watch and a deck rover watch. The point-of-transfer watch must remain at the point of connection. The primary duty of the deck rover is to monitor for oil spills on deck or over the side during bunkering. The deck rover may perform other duties not in conflict with his or her primary duty.



In-Person Pre-Transfer Conference

The pre-transfer conference must take place in person, onboard either vessel (WAC 317-40-070). If the master determines an in-person conference is not safe due to weather, the conference can be done visually, by voice, or by radio.



Training within 48 hours of the transfer

The bunkering vessel PIC must conduct training for the bunker team within 48 hours of a scheduled bunkering. Training must include a review of [WA state penalties](#) for spilling oil, along with the other topics listed in WAC 317-40-050 (1).

Pre-load plan

The [pre-load plan](#) must include:

- Identification, location, and capacity of the tanks receiving oil;
- Level and type of liquid in each bunker tank prior to bunkering;
- Final ullage or innage, and percent of each bunker tank to be filled;
- Sequence tanks are to be filled; and
- Procedures to monitor tank levels and valve alignments. (WAC 317-40-050 (3))

More Information

- [Bunkering Best Practices \(wa.gov\)](#)
- [WA Bunker Pre-Load Plan example](#)
- [Vessel Oil Spill Penalties \(wa.gov\)](#)
- [SafeAccessToBunkeringVessels \(wa.gov\)](#)

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.