## Weekly Muster

**Week of:** When received
**Topic:** Travelers Destined to Lightering Vessels
**References:** INA § 212(d)(5)(A), 8 CFR 214.2 (d), 8 CFR 212.5, 8 CFR 235.1

**Headquarters POC:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [redacted]
**Office:** Admissibility and Passenger Programs

- Travelers joining lightering vessels are not eligible for the C1 transit nonimmigrant visa classification if the vessel does not facilitate a departure.
- Primary officers should refer travelers presenting a C1/D visa, or other non immigrant visa, who are destined to a lightering vessel for further inspection.
- Parole may be granted to these travelers to join their lightering vessels, based on certain circumstances.
- Parole may be granted provided the traveler can:
  - Satisfy the secondary officer that he or she is destined to a lightering vessel to serve in the capacity of a crewmember,
  - Demonstrate that he or she would not be otherwise inadmissible except for not meeting the technical requirements of the C1 or D nonimmigrant visa classification,
- Evidence of serving onboard a lightering vessel may include, but is not limited to:
  - A letter from the vessel agent or lightering company indicating the vessel name and that the vessel performs lightering,
  - A copy of the employment contract for the traveler onboard the vessel, or previous evidence of employment onboard a lightering vessel and
  - An offer of employment.
- The traveler may be paroled for significant public benefit for the period of his or her contract, not to exceed six months.
- The parole will:
  - Provide the traveler authorization to transit to the lightering vessel, perform duties on board the lightering vessel that would ordinarily be classified as required for normal operations and service on board a vessel, and repatriation after end of contract
  - Allow the traveler access off the vessel when it is in port, similar to temporary landing rights granted to holders of a D crew visa.
- This parole is not applicable to travelers destined to vessels during times of labor disputes, as per INA § 214(f), or travelers claiming fear under asylum provisions.
- Secondary officer will:
  - Annotate the parole by indicating "CP – Significant Public Interest" on the I-94 and indicate the length of parole as the end of contract date or six months, whichever is sooner.
  - Record the secondary disposition in the appropriate systems, indicating the type and period of parole granted under INA § 212(d)(5).



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