

Here is a Sample Audit Checklist for a Barge Company operating in North America, incorporating requirements and best practices from U.S. Coast Guard, industry, and environmental standards:

Barge Audit Checklist

A. General Information

Name of Barge or ATB:

Barge or ATB (select one):

Length of Barge or ATB:

IMO or Official Number:

Name of Company:

Point of Contact:

Date & Location of Inspection:

Inspector(s):

B. Documentation & Certificates

Certificate of Inspection (COI) posted and current

Stability letter posted

Waste management plan available and up-to-date

Drug and alcohol program documentation

Life raft and lifesaving equipment certificates (if manned)

Pollution prevention certificates (if applicable)

Cargo gear and ballast instruction manuals

General arrangement/fire control plan (if manned)

C. Crew & Training

Navigation watch composition meets standards

Pilot house resource management procedures followed

Familiarization/orientation training documented

Position-specific and refresher training records available

Emergency drills conducted and documented

Work hours/rest periods compliant with regulations

Drug and alcohol policies enforced

D. Navigation & Operations

Navigation assessment and voyage planning documented

Pre-arrival and pre-departure checks for navigation and engine equipment

Safety rounds and bar crossing procedures followed

Tug escort and crewing requirements met (if applicable)

Planned maintenance (PM) program in place and records up-to-date

Navigation equipment functional and up-to-date

E. Structural & Equipment Inspection

External hull, decks, and superstructures examined for integrity and corrosion

Hatchways, manholes, and other openings in good condition and watertight

Hull markings (freeboard, draft) legible and correct

Bilge and ballast piping systems operational and leak-free

Cargo tanks, voids, and spaces inspected for cleanliness and structural soundness

Lifting and truss arrangements in satisfactory condition (if applicable)

Ground tackle and mooring equipment in good order

F. Pollution Prevention & Environmental Compliance

Spill prevention and response plan in place and tested

After pumping or washing, visual inspection for sheen in water

Cargo residue cleaned before washing compartments and discharging wash water

Lubrication of tow wire and equipment minimizes drips and spills

Ballast water and bilge management practices compliant

Corrective actions for any environmental non-compliance documented

G. Security

Access control measures in place and monitored

Security drills conducted and documented

Warning signs posted for dangerous cargo, “No Smoking,” and “No Visitors”

H. Emergency Procedures

Emergency procedures posted and crew familiar with them

Emergency equipment (fire extinguishers, alarms) present and functional

Event and incident reporting procedures followed

I. Observations & Corrective Actions

List any areas not inspected:

List any deficiencies or non-conformities found:

Immediate corrective actions taken:

Further actions required and responsible person:

Target completion date:

J. Sign-Off

Inspector Name & Signature:

Responsible Manager Name & Signature:

Date:

References:

This checklist is based on guidance from the U.S. Coast Guard, Washington State Department of Ecology, and industry best practices. Always adapt to your company's specific regulatory and operational requirements.

This checklist helps ensure your barge operations meet safety, compliance, and environmental standards across North America.