Subchapter M - Compliance Option Decision Matrix

Perceived Advantage	Explanation	Third Party Option	Coast Guard Option
Ease of scheduling	Presumably it will be easier to schedule your inspections with a third party than with the Coast Guard.		
Cost	The user fee is a wash, as everyone must pay it. Third party audits and surveys will not come cheap as they are very involved and incur great liability.		
Level of expertise	The best case scenario is for a fully qualified Coast Guard marine inspector. However, the Coast Guard will use enlisted personnel as assistant marine inspectors. Third party surveyors and auditors may range from highly competent to limited ability and experience.		
Level of TSMS implementation	For the Coast Guard option the TSMS is not on the table during inspections, whether you have one or not. For the TSMS option it must be implemented 100% by captains and crews, as well as ashore.		
Possible conflicts of interests	With the Coast Guard, there is none anticipated. The third party option is ripe for conflicts of interests.		
Ability to resolve conflicts	If you disagree with the Coast Guard you immediately take it up with the supervisor. With a third party, it is unclear how disagreements will be resolved.		
Perception of superiority	Some think they must go with the third party TSMS option or risk being looked upon as an inferior organization.		
Total			

Instructions:

- For each perceived advantage, choose a number between 1 and 3, which corresponds to the level of perceived advantage as outlined below.
- Enter that number in the column under the compliance option which you feel will provide such an advantage.
- Total each column to decide which compliance option is best for your company or vessel.

1	Slight advantage
2	Advantage
3	Great advantage