

10 Essential Compliance Tips for NVOCCs

Staying compliant with the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) isn't just about avoiding penalties—it's about building credibility, protecting your business, and supporting your clients. Based on insights shared in our webinar "Avoid Costly FMC Penalties", presented with AP Tariffs these tips provide a roadmap for NVOCCs to strengthen compliance, mitigate risks, and prepare for the unexpected.

- 1. Determine if your company qualifies as an NVOCC**
and secure the proper FMC license.
- 2. Understand the realities of Negotiated Rate Arrangements (NRAs)**
they are not always the best option.
- 3. Follow detention & demurrage rules carefully:**
invoice within 30 days and include all required details.
- 4. Ensure House Bills of Lading**
to correctly reflect your license information and match the Master Bill.
- 5. Be audit-ready with complete documentation,**
including Bills of Lading, invoices, payments, and filed rates.
- 6. Address client disputes**
by referencing properly filed rates or NRAs for protection.
- 7. Avoid relying on carrier rates without a formal service contract**
hidden liabilities can arise.
- 8. Verify the license status of all partners and agents**
using the FMC's OTI list.
- 9. Treat warning signs seriously**
client complaints or unfiled tariffs can trigger FMC audits.
- 10. Conduct internal audits annually**
to identify gaps, spot-check shipments, and correct deficiencies.

Next Step: Protect your compliance foundation with the right liability and surety solutions. Contact Roanoke today to learn how we support NVOCCs with bond and insurance products tailored to your needs or contact AP Tariffs at info@aptariffs.com for a consultation.



1-800-ROANOKE (1-800-762-6653)



Infospot@RoanokeGroup.com



roanokegroup.com