



United States Coast Guard
Activities Far East
Yokota Air Base Bldg. 714, Rm. 140
Fussa-Shi, Tokyo, Japan 197-0001
Phone: 81 311-755-8405
Fax: 81 425-551-5571
Email: feact@uscg.mil



MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 01-08

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INSPECTION AND TESTING OF IMMERSION SUITS

[NVIC \(10-08\)](#) has been released regarding the inspection and testing of immersion suits. This MSIB addresses this issue as CG inspectors in the FEACTION AOR have found an increasing number of defective immersion suits during COI and Annual inspections.

The majority of defective immersion suits are due to a breakdown of the aging adhesives holding the suits together. Although guidelines have been in place since 2002 for monthly inspections of immersion suits ([MSC Circular 1047](#)), they only identify obvious problems with the basic functioning of the suit. In May 2004 the IMO approved Guidelines for periodic testing of immersion suit seams and closures set out in [MSC Circular 1114](#).

NVIC 10-08 promulgates the recommendations of the IMO, in MSC Circulars 1047, and 1114, concerning the periodic inspection and testing of immersion suits by ship's crews. The enclosed checklists in this circular, (Guidelines for shipboard inspection of immersion suits by ship's crews and Guidelines for periodic testing of immersion suit seams and closures) are an effective aid in assisting mariners with these inspections.

For additional information or clarification regarding the Marine Safety Information Bulletin, please contact LTJG Kenneth McCain at the above number or address.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald M. Swanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gerald M. Swanson
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection