



United States Coast Guard

Marine Inspection Office Europe



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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 04-09

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Procedures for Third Parties Acting on Behalf of the USCG when Conducting Lifesaving Equipment Production Oversight

U.S. Coast Guard Activities Europe has recently become aware that several manufacturers of USCG Approved lifesaving equipment are producing, testing, and inspecting equipment destined for use on U.S. flagged vessels without providing the appropriate notifications to the Cognizant Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections (OCMI).

The purpose of this USCG Activities Europe Advisory is to reiterate the requirements for notification of prototype and production testing of lifesaving equipment as well as to provide a standard procedure for requesting third parties to act on behalf of the USCG when conducting production oversight for certain types of lifesaving equipment. All lifesaving equipment products are to meet the requirements of applicable standards in order to be approved and certified for installation on board U.S. flagged vessels in accordance with the issued Certificates of Approval. The manufacturer is to submit an application for inspection of any lifesaving equipment required to be tested or inspected in the presence of a USCG Marine Inspector in accordance with USCG Activities Europe MSIB 02-08. This includes, but is not limited to; lifeboats, lifeboat launching appliances (davits, winches, release mechanisms), rescue boats, rescue boat launching appliances (davits, winches, release mechanisms), liferafts, and liferaft launching appliances (davits, winches, release mechanisms).

In some cases third parties are allowed to act on behalf of the USCG when conducting production oversight as stipulated in the applicable USCG Certificate of Approval. Even in cases where the Certificate of Approval permits a specific third party to conduct production oversight, the equipment manufacturer is requested to notify the Cognizant OCMI. The USCG reserves the right to attend any testing of approved lifesaving equipment.

When requesting that a third party act on behalf of the USCG, in order to conduct production oversight, the manufacture is requested to submit a notification 30 days prior to the purposed testing date.

Submission for Third Party Inspection Approval:

- The submission can be sent:
 - a) The preferred method is by email to acteurinspections@uscg.mil. The subject line for an e-mail inspection request should include the verbiage: Name of Facility + Lifesaving Inspection Notification (example: XYZ Rescueboat + Lifesaving Inspection Notification); or,
 - b) By mail to:
Manager, Life Saving Equipment Inspection and Certification,
USCG Activities Europe,
Lylantse Plein 1, 2908 LH Capelle a/d IJssel, The Netherlands.

The submission must include:

- A copy of the Certificates of Approval issued by the USCG for the equipment being tested or inspected;
- A detailed description of the product(s) which is to be tested including the approval number, quantity, and serial number(s).
- The date upon which the test is to be carried out;
- Requisition information in respect to order destination, including the Vessel name and IMO Number. If it is a stock order then the location (address) should be included;
- The name of the third party (ABS, LR, etc.), including office region, which will conduct the production testing oversight

USCG Activities Europe will review the submission and, provided the information is complete and compliant with the requirements set forth in the relevant sections of the Regulations, SOLAS, and within this advisory, approval will be granted. Failure to submit a proper notification may result in a request denial or delay. Authorizations are granted only for the product(s) identified therein, and, only when such products are manufactured in accordance with the relevant requirements of this standard and the Certificate of Approval.

Permission to grant third party production oversight can only be extended to rescue boats, rescue boat launching appliances, liferafts, and liferaft launching appliances. Authorization will only be granted if third party oversight is stipulated within the applicable USCG Certificate of Approval. Further, this standard does not alleviate the manufacturer from submitting annual reports as mentioned within the USCG Certificate of Approval. This standard is not applicable for prototype testing nor is it extended for lifeboat or lifeboat launching appliances.

If significant (design, material, etc.) defects are found during testing and inspection when a Coast Guard Marine Inspector is not present, the manufacturer is required to notify USCG Activities Europe immediately.

Upon the completion of successful testing the manufacturer is requested to submit the signed production reports to USCG Activities Europe. Signed production reports can be submitted by mailing or e-mailing to the addresses mentioned above. Manufacturers are also reminded that production reports and equipment data plates should be marked with the name of the party witnessing the actual production tests.

Additional guidance and information can be found at the links below:

Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division (*Commandant (CG-5214)*)
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg5214/>

USCG Activities Europe Website:
<http://www.uscg.mil/acteur/>

United States Coast Guard Maritime Information Exchange (CGMIX)
<http://cgmix.uscg.mil/Default.aspx>

For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Bulletin, please contact Lieutenant Corydon Heard at the above number or address.



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Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection