

**U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security**

**United States  
Coast Guard**



Commander  
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Seventeenth Coast Guard District

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**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Part of the Coast Guard mission is to conduct at-sea boardings on commercial fishing industry vessels to verify they are safely operating in accordance with Federal safety regulations.

During recent boardings a number of vessels were found to be operating with aluminum, fiberglass, wood, or inflated skiffs that do not meet the regulations regarding Coast Guard approved survival craft. In order to clarify the survival craft requirements that apply to commercial fishing industry vessels in Alaska the attached pamphlet has been prepared.

You are encouraged to contact your local Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety examiner (phone numbers listed on the reverse) and request a dockside examination of your vessel. Upon successful completion, a Fishing Vessel Safety decal will be issued. The examinations are free and are done at the dock by a qualified examiner. The examiner will accompany you in an evaluation of the condition of the vessel and will assess the level of compliance with applicable Federal requirements. If discrepancies are found during the examination, no citations are issued. Instead a work list is provided and you may follow-up to complete the exam. Another positive benefit of having an exam is that when a Coast Guard Cutter encounters a number of vessels policy is to board vessels that do not display a Fishing Vessel Safety Decal first.

Sincerely,

SUE A. JORGENSEN  
Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator  
U. S. Coast Guard  
By direction of the Commander

## **COAST GUARD DOCKSIDE EXAMINERS**

Anchorage	(907) 271-6725
Dutch Harbor	(907) 581-3466
Juneau	(907) 463-2448
Kenai	(907) 283-3292
Ketchikan	(907) 225-4496
Kodiak	(907) 486-5918
Sitka	(907) 966-5454
Valdez	(907) 835-7223
Puget Sound	(206) 217-6180
Portland	(503) 240-9337

Commander (moc)  
17th Coast Guard District  
P O Box 25517  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5517

# Survival Craft Requirements for Commercial Fishing Vessels

## UNDOCUMENTED (STATE REGISTERED) VESSELS WITH NO MORE THAN 16 PEOPLE ON BOARD

0 TO 12 MILES FROM LAND			MORE THAN 12 MILES FROM LAND
<b>VESSEL LESS THAN 36'</b>	3 or less people	NONE REQUIRED	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS*
	More than 3 people	BUOYANT APPARATUS*	
<b>VESSEL 36' OR MORE</b>	No more than 16 people	BUOYANT APPARATUS*	



## ALL DOCUMENTED VESSELS & UNDOCUMENTED VESSELS WITH MORE THAN 16 PEOPLE ON BOARD

0 TO 12 MILES FROM LAND			12 TO 20 MILES FROM LAND	20 TO 50 MILES FROM LAND	MORE THAN 50 MILES
<b>VESSEL LESS THAN 36'</b>	3 or less people	NONE REQUIRED	INFLATABLE LIFERAFT*	SOLAS "B"	INFLATABLE LIFERAFT WITH*
	More than 3 people	BUOYANT APPARATUS*			
<b>VESSEL 36' OR MORE</b>	3 or less people	BUOYANT APPARATUS*		INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS*	
	More than 3 people	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS*			

**\*COAST GUARD APPROVED DEVICE**

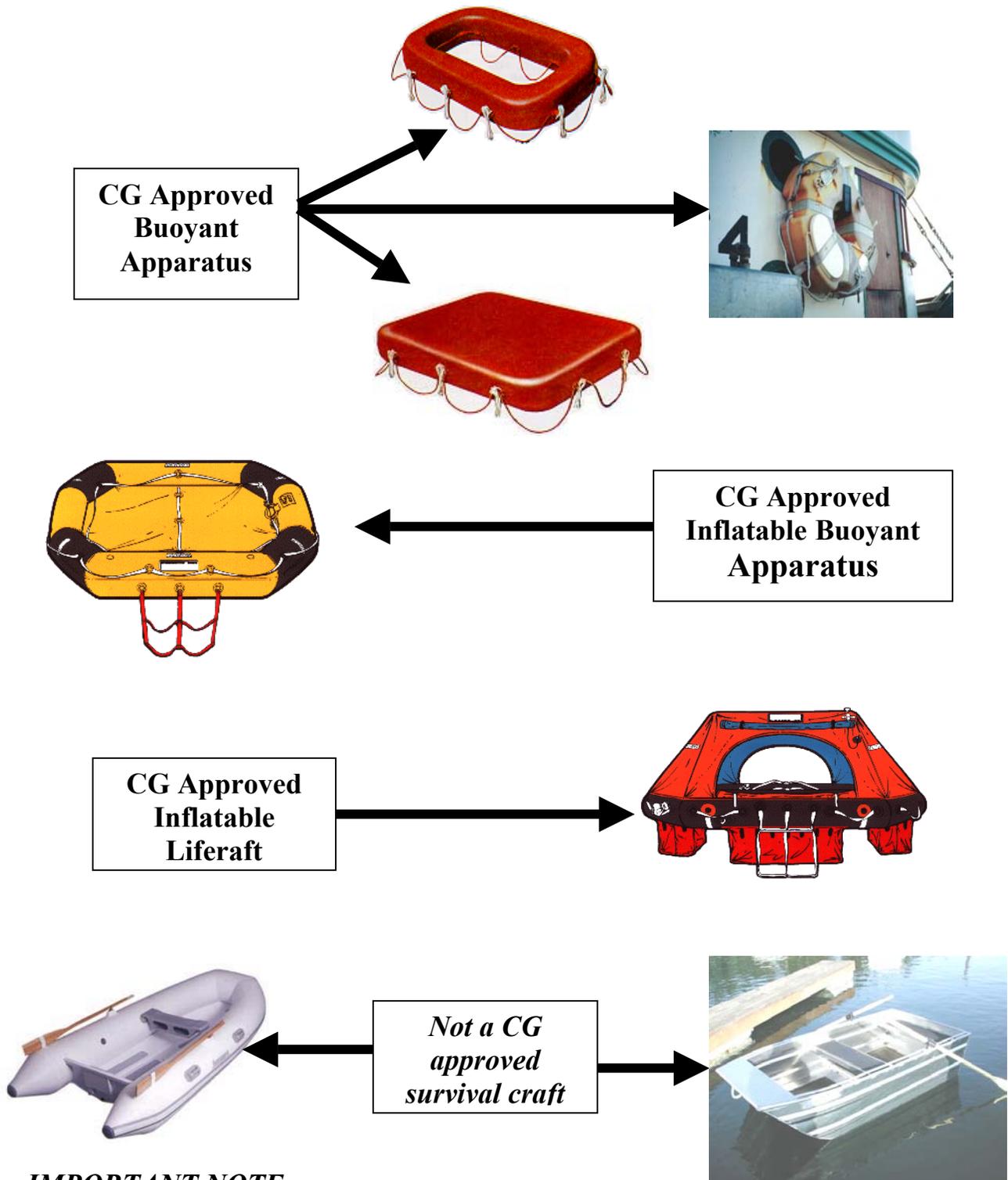
**LAND:** Applies when a vessel leaves the lock--whether inside or outside the Boundary Line.

**AUXILIARY CRAFT:** Vessels engaged in seining operations may use the seine skiff as an alternative to the Coast Guard approved device only when the vessel remains within 12 miles of the coastline.

**LENGTH:** As shown on the vessel's Certificate of Documentation or the Certificate of Number.

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EXAMPLES OF DEVICES**

# Survival Craft Requirements



## **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Skiffs (rigid or inflated) similar to the ones above are **NOT** Coast Guard approved buoyant apparatuses and **do not** meet the survival craft requirements.

**SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR SURVIVAL CRAFT REQUIREMENTS**