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**MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 01- 03**

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## **Unauthorized Liferaft Servicing Facilities**

The Coast Guard has recently received reports of faulty servicing of several inflatable liferafts which were last serviced by facilities operating under the name "AMPAK" in Baton Rouge, LA, and Panama City, FL. In at least one instance, the liferaft gas cylinder was found empty, and the liferaft would not have worked in an emergency. Others were marked as having been subjected to required tests that were not in fact performed.

Although the liferafts were Coast Guard approved and of several different makes, the AMPAK facilities were not Coast Guard approved to service any of them. Since both AMPAK facilities appear to have since ceased operations, we do not know how many other liferafts may be involved.

The Coast Guard strongly recommends that any inflatable liferafts last serviced by the AMPAK facilities in Baton Rouge or Panama City be taken to a Coast Guard approved servicing facility as soon as possible. This recommendation applies both to Coast Guard approved liferafts on U.S. vessels, and foreign approved liferafts on SOLAS ships; the AMPAK facilities are known to have serviced both.

A servicing facility taking in a Coast Guard approved liferaft that was last serviced by one of the AMPAK facilities should notify the local Coast Guard OCMI, so that (resources permitting) a Coast Guard inspector can witness the servicing. This notification can be included in the facility's routine required notice to the OCMI of servicing.

Servicing facilities should report any serious discrepancies found in these liferafts to Mr. Kurt Heinz of the Lifesaving and Fire Safety Standards Division at (202) 267-1444 or [kheinz@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:kheinz@comdt.uscg.mil).

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