

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**United States  
Coast Guard**



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Eighth Coast Guard District  
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16711  
19 August 1996

From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District  
To: Distribution

Subj: CONTROL VERIFICATION EXAMINATION ON FOREIGN PASSENGER  
VESSELS - PROCEDURES FOR DRILLS AND TRAINING ON DAVIT-  
LAUNCHED LIFERAFTS

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded for your information and use.

  
G. A. TETREAU  
By direction

Encl: (1) COMDT (G-MOC-2) ltr 16711 MOC Policy Ltr No. 3-96 of  
29 July 1996

Dist: All Eighth District Gulf Region MSOs



16711  
MOC Policy Ltr  
No. 3-96  
JUL 29 1996

From: Commandant  
To : Distribution

Subj: CONTROL VERIFICATION EXAMINATION (CVE) ON FOREIGN  
PASSENGER VESSELS - PROCEDURES FOR DRILLS AND TRAINING ON  
DAVIT-LAUNCHED LIFERAFTS

Ref : (a) Report of the Cruise Ship Safety Review Task Force  
dated 31 October 1995

1. PURPOSE: To enable the ship's crew to gain increased training, overall proficiency, and safety in the handling of davit-launched liferafts on passenger vessels.
2. DISCUSSION: In July 1995, the Coast Guard convened a task force to conduct a safety review of the cruise ship industry, both U.S. and foreign. The task force concluded that there was no evidence of heightened risks associated with ocean going cruise ships from U.S. ports and that it was a safe industry. However, to ensure its continued safety certain improvements were needed, especially in the human factors areas of crew training and communications. Specifically, recommendation 15 of reference (a) states that: "Greater emphasis should be placed on the operation of davit-launched liferafts by both shipboard personnel and Coast Guard inspectors during drills. To this end, vessel operators should be strongly encouraged to equip their ships with training liferafts, which could be swung out in their containers, inflated and lowered during routine drills. This training would increase overall proficiency in the handling of both davits and the liferafts."

The Coast Guard and the International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL) held a series of meetings to discuss and work in partnership to develop procedures to implement this recommendation. These procedures are provided below as Coast Guard policy. Though this policy was developed in concert with ICCL, it is appropriate and applicable to all ocean going passenger vessels. Further, though ICCL member companies are aware of this policy, non-ICCL companies are not, and should be notified before implementing this policy. A list of ICCL member companies is provided as enclosure (1) to aid in your identifying those non-ICCL companies which should be notified.

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3. ACTION. Effective immediately, the following policy is in effect for all ocean going cruise vessels:

a. Onboard training in the use of davit-launched liferafts will be conducted on each vessel approximately once a month. Crew members should be rotated at these drills so that each member gets training at least once in the required 4-month interval (SOLAS 74/92, Chapter III/18.4.3). This training shall consist of inflating and launching a davit-launched liferaft. This liferaft may be a special liferaft intended for training purposes only, which is not part of the ship's lifesaving equipment; such a special liferaft shall be conspicuously marked.

b. During a quarterly CVE, the Coast Guard will check each vessel's log to verify that the liferaft training is conducted approximately once a month.

c. During a quarterly CVE, the Coast Guard may require a vessel to demonstrate the complete process of inflating and launching a davit-launched liferaft. The vessel will be selected by the cognizant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) on a rotational basis so that the Coast Guard can observe this drill at least once a year on each vessel that calls regularly at a particular port. The OCMI may also select a vessel based on performance at previous drills, or on other factors that may lead the OCMI to believe that the crew may not be satisfactorily trained in davit-launched inflatable liferaft operations. In any case, the Coast Guard will give sufficient prior notice to the vessel operator so that the operator can ensure that an inflatable liferaft is available.

d. During an annual CVE, the Coast Guard will require each vessel to demonstrate the complete process of inflating and launching a davit-launched liferaft. The Coast Guard will discuss with the vessel's master all details of the drill, before its commencement.

e. The drill during a quarterly CVE may be conducted on a training liferaft. The drill during an annual CVE must be conducted on a liferaft that is part of the vessel's lifesaving appliances. In order to reduce the cost burden on the operator, it is recommended that the operator use a liferaft that is due for servicing.

f. The Coast Guard does not require personnel to be in a liferaft while it is being deployed. However, the master may at his discretion, choose to put personnel in the liferaft during its deployment.

g. This policy is intended to be incorporated in a future revision of the Marine Safety Manual. Before doing so,

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Commandant (G-MOC-2) must evaluate the effectiveness of the policy. Consequently, Activities and Marine Safety Offices are required to submit a report to Commandant (G-MOC-2), upon witnessing the deployment of a davit-launched liferaft. This report shall consist of an informal narrative of one page or less, giving the vessel's name and operator, overall impressions of crew competency and training, other observations and recommendations, and any improvements or discrepancies since the last witnessed deployment. The report shall be sent by e-mail and addressed to r.khandpur/g-m17.

  
J. E. SCHRINNER  
By direction

Encl: (1) List of ICCL member companies

Distribution: All Districts (m)  
Marine Safety School  
Marine Safety Center

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CRUISE LINES (ICCL)  
MEMBER COMPANIES

1. Carnival Cruise Lines
2. Celebrity Cruise Lines
3. Commodore Cruise Lines
4. Coast Cruise Lines NV
5. Crystal Cruises
6. Cunard Line Ltd.
7. Disney Cruise Line
8. Dolphin Cruise Line
9. Fantasy Cruise Lines
10. Holland America Line
11. Majesty Cruise Line
12. Norwegian Cruise Line
13. Premier Cruise Lines, Ltd.
14. Princess Cruises
15. Regal Cruises
16. Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.
17. Royal Olympic Cruise, Ltd.
18. Seabourn Cruise Line
19. Windstar Cruises

**ENCLOSURE(1)**