

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



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16711
18 Apr 1997

From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
To: Distribution

Subj: LIFERAFT INSPECTIONS

Ref: (a) Our ltr 16711 of 3 Feb 1997

1. Enclosure (1) is provided as a follow-up to reference (a).

G. A. Tetreau
G. A. TETREAU
By direction

Encl: (1) COMDT (G-MOC-2) ltr 16711 of 8 April 1997

Dist: All Eighth District MSOs, MSU and MSDs

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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16711

APR - 8 1997

From: Commandant (G-MOC-2)
To: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District (m)

Subj: LIFERAFT INSPECTIONS

Ref: (a) Your ltr 16711 dated 3 February 1997

1. This is response to your letter of 3 February 1997 recommending termination of the requirement to witness servicing of inflatable liferafts. Your request has merit however, without a change to regulations, we cannot authorize OCMI's to terminate the required oversight inspections. Moreover, the Coast Guard is currently under a court order that, in essence, requires us to follow our current regulations.
2. Fortunately, the much anticipated changes to 46 CFR Parts 159 and 160 should be coming very soon. These changes will likely give OCMI's the discretion to decide whether a marine inspector must witness servicing of a liferaft and should also authorize use of a qualified third-party inspector. The interim final rule, due out this summer, will likely reflect the inflatable liferaft proposed rule, published 18 October 1994 in the Federal Register.
3. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact LT Brian Willis of my staff. Questions relating to the inflatable liferaft rulemaking project should be directed to Mr. Kurt Heinz, G-MSE-4, (202)267-1079.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. D. Powers".

G. D. POWERS

By direction