



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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COMDTCHANGE NOTE 10470
MAY 26, 2015

COMMANDANT CHANGE NOTICE 10470

Subj: CH-1 TO RESCUE AND SURVIVAL SYSTEMS MANUAL, COMDTINST M10470.10G

1. PURPOSE. This Commandant Change Notice publishes a change to Rescue and Survival Systems Manual, COMDTINST M10470.10G.
2. ACTION. All Coast Guard unit and training center commanders, commanding officers, officers-in-charge, deputy/assistant commandants, and chiefs of headquarters staff elements shall comply with the provisions of this Commandant Change Notice. Internet release is authorized.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. With the addition of this Commandant Change Notice, Rescue and Survival Systems Manual, COMDTINST M10470.10G, is updated.
4. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide operational guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
5. MAJOR CHANGES. Major changes that this Commandant Change Notice effects in the Rescue and Survival Systems Manual are as follows.
 - a. Added that Scheduled Mission Personnel, with few specific exceptions, shall be issued and wear the same gear as required of crew members.
 - b. Added a requirement that the CO/OIC of a unit not required to have cold weather gear brief the Sector Commander OPCON when the decision is made to get underway without proper PPE.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 165

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X
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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION



- c. Added that Shoreside Personnel fall under Scheduled Passenger requirements when being transferred by boat.
- d. Added circumstances and conditions of Ready Service Locker.
- e. Added explanation of dry suit issue.
- f. Added conditions for operating in cold weather for units not required to have cold weather gear.
- g. Added CO/OIC responsibility to determine whether waived equipment shall be carried while underway.
- h. Added “crewmembers” in place of “CG Personnel” in sections discussing the wear of hypothermia gear.
- i. Added correct blanks in place of incorrect blanks for content related to Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, Form AF-538.
- j. Removed link to electronically-signable version of Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, Form AF-538.
- k. Added Goggles and Sunglasses to Returnable Items.
- l. Issue of the boat crew knife changed to “optional.”
- m. Removed Safety Boots and replaced with Tactical Boots.
- n. Clarified required life raft capacity for cutters.
- o. Removed requirement that PFD PQS completion shall be recorded on a Administrative Remarks, Form CG 3307.
- p. Removed CGM models of personal flotation devices.
- q. Added wording allowing exception to Layer I and II requirement with dry suit.
- r. Removed specific thigh pocket requirement for storing neoprene hood – now allowing unspecified pocket storage.
- s. Clarified when cold weather boots are required to be worn.
- t. Modified salient characteristics of Cold Weather Boots.
- u. Added Mustang Survival MD-0450 v22 among options for minimum flotation requirement for Tactical operations.



- v. Added provisions that address geographic and logistical challenges associated with Auxiliary survival systems.
 - w. Added language authorizing Inspectors and Investigators to wear anti-exposure coveralls in lieu of a dry suit without a waiver.
 - x. Added alternatives to Boat Crew Survival Vest for Auxiliarists to carry their non-pyrotechnic equipment.
6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT. No impact assessment warranted.
7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. Environmental aspects and impact considerations were examined in the development of this Commandant Change Notice and have been determined to be not applicable.
- a. The development of this Commandant Change Notice and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Management, and are categorically excluded (CE) under current USCG CE #33 from further environmental analysis, in accordance with Section 2.B.2. and Figure 2-1 of the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series). Because this Commandant Change Notice contains guidance documents that implement, without substantive change, the applicable Commandant Instruction and other guidance documents, Coast Guard categorical exclusion #33 is appropriate.
 - b. This directive will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this manual shall be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates. Due to the administrative and procedural nature of this Commandant Change Notice, and the environmental guidance provided within it for compliance with all applicable environmental laws prior to promulgating any directive, all applicable environmental considerations are addressed appropriately in this Commandant Change Notice.
8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Commandant Change Notice. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites. Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/directives/> , and CGPortal: <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/SitePages/Home.aspx> .
9. PROCEDURE. Changed pages have been marked with CH-1 in the footer, and specific content changes have been designated with vertical lines in or near the margins, on the same lines as the changes. If maintaining a paper library, place this Commandant Change Notice inside the front cover and update the record of changes with the date completed. Remove and replace the following sections of RESCUE AND SURVIVAL SYSTEMS MANUAL, COMDTINST M10470.10G:



Remove

- Page 1-1 thru 1-2
- Page 2-3 thru 2-8
- Page 2-13 thru 2-18
- Page 2-21 thru 2-24
- Page 2-29 thru 2-32
- Page 2-37 thru 2-42
- Page 3-3 thru 3-8
- Page 3-15 thru 3-16
- Page 3-37 thru 3-38
- Page 3-63 thru 3-64
- Page 3-67 thru 3-68
- Page 3-77 thru 3-78

Replace

- Page 1-1 thru 1-2
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- Page 3-37 thru 3-38
- Page 3-63 thru 3-64
- Page 3-67 thru 3-68
- Page 3-77 thru 3-78

10. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Commandant Change Notice has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are not records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 ct seq., NARA requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series).
11. FORMS/REPORTS. The forms referenced in this Commandant Change Notice are available in USCG Electronic Forms on the Standard Workstation or on the Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/forms/>, CGPortal at <https://cgportal.uscg.mil/delivery/Satellite/uscg/References>; and Intranet at <http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/CGForms>. The Air Force forms (AF) can be found using this link: <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>.
12. REQUESTS FOR CHANGES. To recommend edits and changes to this Commandant Change Notice, please e-mail the Office of Boat Forces (CG-731) technical writer at CG731Manuals@uscg.mil to obtain the proper feedback form.

JOHN P. NADEAU /s/
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Capability



PART 1 Introduction

Section A. Purpose of this Manual

Introduction This Manual establishes Coast Guard personal protective equipment policy and requirements for all Coast Guard personnel and passengers conducting Coast Guard missions while embarked on Coast Guard boats as well as on non-Coast Guard vessels. Additionally, this Manual applies to operations conducted on or near the water where there is uncontrolled risk of entering the water.

Procedures This Manual directs Rescue and Survival gear issuance, maintenance, and wear requirements for the conduct of Coast Guard operations. Every effort has been made to identify the proper gear to outfit and equip Coast Guard members for our full range of environmental and operational conditions. Situations may arise that are not anticipated by this Manual. Successful operations require the exercise of good safety practices, sound judgment and common sense at all levels of command.

Deviation When the need arises, special instructions or waivers may be issued by the Office of Boat Forces (CG-731). The operational environment or mission demands may require on-scene deviation from prescribed instructions or procedures when, in the judgment of the CO, OIC, or Coxswain, such deviation is necessary for safety or preservation of life.

NOTE

Units not required to have cold weather gear required elsewhere in this manual may operate underway in cold weather when, in the judgment of the CO or OIC, the risk of not having required equipment on the boat is outweighed by the benefits of getting underway without the prescribed equipment. When the decision is made by the CO/OIC to get underway without the proper PPE, this decision will be briefed to the Sector Commander/OPCON.

Such deviation must not be taken lightly and must be tempered by maturity, sound judgment, thorough Operational Risk Management, and a complete understanding of the capabilities of the unit, mission, and crew.



Section B. How to Use this Manual

Part Layout

The first page of each *Part* includes an *Introduction*, and an *In this Part* (which lists each chapter title).

The first page of each chapter includes an *Introduction*, an *In this Chapter*, and *References for this Chapter*, as applicable.

The first page of each section includes an *Introduction*, an *In this Section*, and *References for this Section*, as applicable.

In the left column of each page is the block title, which provides a descriptive word or phrase for the corresponding block of text across from it.

Warnings, Cautions, and Notes

The following definitions apply to “Warnings, Cautions, and Notes” found throughout the Manual.

WARNING

Operating procedures, techniques or steps that must be followed to avoid personal injury or loss of life.

CAUTION!

Operating procedures, techniques or steps that must be carefully followed to avoid equipment damage.

NOTE

Operating procedures, techniques or steps that require additional emphasis.

Generalization

Because of the need to generalize, wording such as “normally,” “etc.,” “usually,” and “such as” is employed throughout this Manual. Words or clauses of this nature shall not be used as loopholes, nor shall they be expanded to include situations or circumstances that should not be encountered.



Section A. Responsibilities and Requirements

A.1. Command Responsibility

The Chain of Command shall ensure strict compliance with the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements directed in this Manual. All personnel will be categorized as one of five roles listed below in **Table 2-1**.

Role	Definition
Crewmember	Person that is filling a boat crew position.
Scheduled Mission Personnel	Person conducting a CG mission and not fulfilling crewmember role (e.g. Boarding Team Member, Inspectors, Investigators, and Training Teams).
Scheduled Passenger	Person not conducting a CG mission and not fulfilling crewmember role, yet whose passage was specifically anticipated (e.g. VIP, Boy Scouts).
Unscheduled Passenger	Person not specifically scheduled for movement, but placed on CG asset due to circumstances (e.g. SAR case survivor, prisoner).
Shoreside Personnel	Personnel conducting pierside inspections and line handlers.
NOTE 	When being transferred by boat, Shoreside Personnel fall under Scheduled Passenger requirements.
NOTE 	Personnel in other government agencies (OGA) shall follow their own agencies' PPE policies when operating on USCG platforms.

Table 2-1
Role Definitions



A.2. Roles and Responsibilities

Commanding Officers, Officers in Charge, and Coxswains responsible for shore and cutter based boats have particular responsibilities and considerations when it comes to Rescue and Survival.

A.2.a.
Command
Responsibility

Commanding Officers, Officers in Charge and Coxswains shall ensure that all CG personnel understand and comply with the following requirements:

- (01) The Commanding Officer, Officer-In-Charge, or (for Auxiliary facilities) the Order-Issuing Authority (OIA) must carefully weigh the urgency of each mission. Mission planning for underway operations shall include an assessment of personnel survivability and risk management. This analysis shall be based on the possibility that personnel might be forced into a survival situation during any phase of the mission. If sea and weather conditions are unknown, CG personnel should always be prepared for the most adverse conditions by carrying extra thermal protection.
 - (02) Personnel shall be appropriately outfitted for the environmental conditions expected to be encountered.
-



A.3. Required Issued PPE

Coast Guard personnel who routinely operate on or near the water shall be issued at a minimum the required PPE listed below.

A.3.a.
Crewmember /
Scheduled
Mission
Personnel
Standard Issue
Personal
Protective
Equipment (PPE)

Crewmembers shall be issued:

- (01) Helmet*,
- (02) Rain jacket and pants (exceptions in 1st NOTE below),
- (03) Boat crew knife (optional),
- (04) Intermediate gloves*,
- (05) Goggles (Ballistic Goggle requirements are found in Reference (b)),
- (06) R&S gear bag*,
- (07) Sunglasses (optional for scheduled mission personnel),
- (08) Boat crew safety boots,
- (09) Boat shoes (optional),
- (10) Anti-exposure coverall* (exceptions in 2nd NOTE below),
- (11) Type III PFD* (issued to Auxiliarists only).

*Asterisked items are the only required issue for Auxiliarists. Only Auxiliarists who might engage in activities outlined in **PART 2 CHAPTER 4B.1. Helmets** require helmet issue.

NOTE ☞

Units shall issue rain jacket and pants to all members who request them. When member does not request rain gear, its issue is optional.

NOTE ☞

Anti-exposure coveralls are optional for cold weather units and other units listed in Part 2, Chapter 3, B.3. **Anti-Exposure Coveralls**. Units that don't exceed 30 days of anti-exposure coverall weather requirements per **Table 2-5** should follow requirements in **Table 2-6**.

A.3.a.1.
Crewmember /
Scheduled
Mission
Personnel Cold
Weather Issue

In addition to the above, Crewmembers at cold-weather units shall be issued:

- (01) Dry suit,
- (02) Layer I undergarment,
- (03) Layer II garment,
- (04) Cold weather boots,
- (05) Thermal socks,
- (06) Balaclava,
- (07) Watch cap,
- (08) Cold weather glove layers,
- (09) Neoprene hood.



NOTE *↪*

Auxiliarists shall be issued only Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate to the mission parameters and environment in which they operate.

NOTE *↪*

Scheduled mission personnel gear may be kept in a Ready Service Locker. If Ready Service Locker is used, the unit is not required to issue this gear to individual personnel, and the unit shall maintain quantities as needed.



**A.4. Minimum
Wear
Requirements
Non-
Crewmember**

While performing designated non-crewmember roles, personnel shall wear at a minimum the required PPE listed below.

NOTE *~*

Coast Guard personnel onboard other government-agency platforms shall be in compliance with Coast Guard PPE requirements.

A.4.a. Scheduled
Mission
Personnel Wear
Requirements

Scheduled mission personnel shall wear the same gear as required of crew members.

A.4.b. Scheduled
Passenger Wear
Requirements

Scheduled passengers shall wear PFD.

Scheduled passengers in cold weather shall wear anti-exposure coverall when possible.

A.4.c.
Unscheduled
Passenger Wear
Requirements

Unscheduled passengers shall wear PFD when possible.



A.5. Training

Commands shall train each member required to wear or use PPE in the following:

- (01) What/When PPE is necessary,
- (02) How to properly don, doff, adjust and wear PPE,
- (03) PPE limitations,
- (04) Proper care, maintenance, storage and disposal of PPE,
- (05) Ability to recognize defective or damaged PPE and remove from service.

Members shall demonstrate an understanding of the training specified, and the ability to use PPE properly before being allowed to perform work requiring the use of PPE.

A.6. R&SS Petty Officer Designation

In accordance with Reference (a), Commanding Officers and Officers-In-Charge shall designate, in writing, a Rescue and Survival Systems Petty Officer (R&SS PO), E-5 or above, who possesses the judgment, professionalism, and maturity required to handle the administrative demands that come with managing the unit’s rescue and survival equipment. The R&SS PO is responsible for the administration of the requirements detailed in this Manual, and is effectively the unit’s expert for this equipment; however, it is not intended that this individual personally inspect or maintain all equipment, but ensures that inspection and maintenance requirements are completed accurately and on-time.

NOTE

Officers-In-Charge shall designate at least one Auxiliarist recommended by the Flotilla Commander in writing as the Rescue and Survival Systems Officer within each flotilla to manage PPE issuance, training, and maintenance. OIAs shall train and guide the designated flotilla members on how to conduct maintenance of rescue and survival equipment.

A.7. Deviation without Authorization

Members shall not add additional items or deviate from their equipment lists. Members shall verify they are in compliance with either Reference (d) or (e), depending on the mission they are performing. Compliance with this Manual and References (d) and (e) ensure such factors as equipment weight and bulk will not adversely affect performance, thermal stress, mission accomplishment, or safety.

NOTE

Any deviations to weight requirements established in References (d) or (e) shall be routed through the Office of Boat Forces (CG-731).



WARNING 

Failure to comply with the directed build up, inspection or periodic maintenance of equipment or systems may result in injury or loss of life.

A.6. System of Entry

ALMIS will track maintenance schedule and will hyperlink to NE-TIMS for the MPC. For MPCs not in ALMIS that direct you to “record maintenance action by completing appropriate signoff,” units shall use the maintenance record located in **APPENDIX A**. Non-modernized units shall use the maintenance record located in **APPENDIX A** for all required record maintenance.

Officers-In-Charge shall ensure up-to-date MPCs are available to their Auxiliarists to help facilitate the completion of preventative maintenance and build-up procedures. Because Auxiliary PPE is not recorded in ALMIS, paper maintenance records are required to be maintained for each piece of equipment. **APPENDIX A** contains the only maintenance records that are authorized to be used.

A.7. Maintenance Documentation Instructions

Enter the name of the item on the first line. Model, Serial Number and the date placed in service are required. The date placed in service is when the member builds up a new piece of equipment for the first time. This date is used to track the total time it has been used and will never change even if member takes it out of service and builds it up again. When performing both scheduled and unscheduled maintenance to the item, record the inspection date, and type (W – Weekly (7 days), M – Monthly (30 days), Q – Quarterly (90 days), S – Semiannually (180 days), A – Annually (365 days), P – Post Use, O – Other, and MX for maintenance only activities). There are no grace periods for inspection frequencies. Remarks section shall always be filled out. Minimum information shall include MPC number and date revised. For other than scheduled inspections, when circling “O” and “MX,” specify the action taken in the Remarks section. Attach additional forms or work orders if necessary. If the item is sent to a servicing facility, ensure the Inspection Facility block is recorded. A servicing facility stamp may be used in this block. A template can be found in **APPENDIX A**, and a sample can be found in **APPENDIX B**.

Lot numbers and sub-assembly serial numbers can be recorded on page one of multiple page documents. Repeating this information on subsequent pages is not necessary providing a running total of pages exist for that item at the bottom right of the page. Lots or serial numbers that are replaced must be corrected in this Section and noted in the Remarks block.

NOTE 

The initial in-service date for the item NEVER changes, it remains constant until the item is removed from service and disposed.



Section B. Property Management and Disposal

B.1. Property Management

Rescue and survival systems and equipment shall be managed in accordance with this Manual, as well as References (a) through (n). Rescue and Survival Equipment is managed as Direct Turnover (DTO) Material unless otherwise specified in this Manual. Extra gear is considered expended. There is no requirement to place these items into an inventory tracking system. Extra gear is defined as any equipment above that which is minimally required to be maintained by the unit. Inventory gear is that which is on the shelf and not issued. Inventory gear is not expended.

Only limited amounts of inventory should be maintained by the unit. If a unit keeps an inventory of equipment it shall be managed in accordance with Reference (i).

B.2. Property Disposal

Equipment that is no longer serviceable shall be disposed of in accordance with Reference (j). Particular caution must be exercised when considering use of Defense Reutilization Marketing Office (DRMO) functions to prevent expended and/or unreliable equipment from being repurposed in life-saving capacities. Furthermore, PPE with USCG marking shall not be transferred to DRMO.



CHAPTER 3

Issue and Inspection Policy

Introduction This Chapter contains policy regarding waivers and documentation of Rescue and Survival Systems equipment.

In this Chapter This Chapter contains the following Sections:

Section	Topic	Page
A	Standard Issue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Issue Policy for Crewmembers	2-16
B	Protective Clothing and Equipment Policy	2-18
C	Swimmer Equipment Policy	2-25
D	Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) Equipment Policy	2-26
E	Ice Rescue Equipment and Protective Clothing Policy	2-30
F	Cutter Life Raft Policy	2-31
G	Waivers and Documentation	2-32



Section A. Standard Issue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Issue Policy for Crewmembers

A.1. Standard Issue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Crewmembers

Items listed in **Table 2-2** are presented and shall be issued in the quantities shown below. For Auxiliarist issue, see asterisked items in Part 2, Chapter 1, **A.3.a. Crewmember / Scheduled Mission Personnel Standard Issue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**.

QTY	ITEM
1 each	Helmet
1 set	Rain Jacket and Pants (see first Note below)
1 each	Boat Crew Knife (optional)
1 pair	Intermediate Gloves
1 pair	Goggles (prescription lens procured with unit funds)
1 each	R&S Gear Bag
1 pair	Sunglasses (prescription lenses may be available from medical)
1 pair	Boat Crew Safety Boots
1 pair	Boat Shoes (optional)
1 each	Anti-Exposure Coverall (optional for cold-weather units)

**Table 2-2
 Standard Clothing Issue for Crewmembers**

NOTE

Units shall issue rain jacket and pants to all members who request them. When member does not request rain gear, its issue is optional.

NOTE

FOR CUTTERS ONLY- Break-in personnel should have only the necessary PPE for the operating environment issued to them during the break-in period. Once fully qualified, the member will be issued a full boatcrew kit.



A.2. Minimum Issue Cold Weather PPE Crewmembers

This paragraph describes issue policy for the minimum outfit of cold weather clothing and equipment required to safely perform the duties required of personnel operating shore and cutter based boats in areas where the air and water temperatures both fall below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The cold weather clothing and equipment items presented in this paragraph are the standard by which funding is justified. These items represent the minimum inventory cold weather survival clothing and equipment required by personnel engaged in waterborne operations. Other equipment may be required at individual units. Cold weather clothing and equipment are issued to all personnel meeting the criteria and operating in the following geographic regions:

- (01) District 1, 5, 9, 11 (except Sector San Diego units), 13 and 17 station and aids to navigation units, and Sector Charleston,
- (02) District 8 station and aids to navigation units and sectors, MSDs and MSUs with boat detachments located north of 31 Degrees Latitude,
- (03) Cutters operating in district 1, 5, 9, 11 (except Sector San Diego units), 13 and 17,
- (04) Cutters operating in district 7 north of Florida and district 8 north of Louisiana,
- (05) All DSF units.

Items noted on **Table 2-3** shall be issued in the quantities shown below, in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 1, A.3. **Required Issued PPE**

QTY	ITEM
1 each	Maritime Cold Weather Suit System (MCWSS) (provides Layer III protection) or Industrial type Dry Suit (provides Layer III & II protection)
3 sets	Thermal underwear (2 set Layer I moisture wicking material and 1 set Layer II polar fleece) (Layer II is not required to be issued when an Industrial type Dry Suit is issued.)
1 each	Neoprene hood
2 pair	Thermal socks
1 each	Cold weather glove layers (1 pair of each Layers I-III)
1 pair	Cold weather boots
1 each	Balaclava
1 each	Watch cap
1 each	R&S gear bag

**Table 2-3
 Cold Weather Clothing Issue**



Section B. Protective Clothing and Equipment Policy

B.1. Required Equipment

All crewmembers and scheduled mission personnel carried in boats shall wear hypothermia protective devices as follows:

If Units utilizing the optional Anti-exposure Coveralls (AEC) as per MPC?	Then
Yes	See Table 2-5 50/50 Box
No	See Table 2-6 Flat 60 Box

Table 2-4
Required Hypothermia Protective Devices



B.5. Ready Service Locker

A Ready Service Locker – a stockpile of shared gear and equipment that can be used by scheduled mission personnel during each mission – may be used to store returnable items that can be checked out by personnel who do not frequently wear the items, such as Sector Boarding Team, Inspections personnel, etc. This will prevent excess numbers being issued to individuals who will not wear them after departing the unit. All gear placed in service that is maintained in the Ready Service Locker shall be labeled with a unit-generated serial number in accordance with MPC. Each unit shall generate a local record for equipment issued out to personnel. The local record shall note equipment condition upon issue and return, and who the gear was issued to.

To find what Ready Service Locker may contain, see [Table 2-7 Reclamation Control](#).

B.6. Government Property and Personal Issue Documentation

All Coast Guard PPE requires special procedures for accounting, inspection, and documentation.

B.6.a. Government Property

All PPE items required by the policies listed in this Manual remain the property of the Coast Guard.

B.6.b. Inspection

The protective clothing and equipment identified in this Manual are subject to inspection and associated maintenance procedures to ensure high quality is maintained, and prolong product longevity. Each section identifies inspection and maintenance requirements for the clothing or equipment discussed. Personnel issued PPE are responsible for maintaining that issue, including performing the required inspection and associated maintenance. Prior to each use, personnel who are issued PPE shall inspect each item for any discrepancies that would compromise integrity. Discrepancies shall be corrected prior to use. Seawater rapidly degrades protective clothing and equipment. After each use, protective clothing and equipment shall be fresh-water rinsed, at a minimum, to remove all traces of seawater and allowed to completely dry before stowage.

NOTE 

Maintaining good PPE condition and maintenance is a shared responsibility between the wearer and the R&SS Petty Officer. Each wearer must maintain, take due care of, and identify any equipment failures or deficiencies with the assistance of the R&SS Petty Officer.



B.6.c.
Issue

This Manual in conjunction with Reference (g) provides authority to individually issue personal protective equipment. The guidelines for accountability of personally issued protective clothing and equipment contained in this Manual shall be strictly adhered to. Personal protective equipment is the responsibility of the individual it is issued to. Individuals shall be responsible for the replacement of any gear that is damaged or lost due to negligence. See Reference (j) for disciplinary actions and pecuniary liability.

B.6.d.
Issue
Documentation
and
Accountability

Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, Form AF-538, shall be used to document all issuances of personal PPE items. Accountability is maintained by the issuing command through periodic inventory inspections and documented annually on Form AF-538. These annual inventory inspections are useful in determining unit needs for maintaining an inventory of protective clothing and equipment for issue, recurring replacement costs associated with personally issued clothing and equipment, and to ensure that periodic inspection and associated maintenance procedures are being accomplished. The unit's Rescue and Survival Systems Petty Officer shall perform the annual inventory inspection. The inspection shall be entered into AOPS /TMT by the unit AOPS administrator.

B.6.e.
Personnel
Transfer

It is required that personal clothing and equipment issued to personnel be transferred with personnel to cutters and shore units when permanent change of station occurs. If the new assignment does not require the use of boat crew clothing and equipment, all returnable items issued shall be returned to the issuing command prior to personnel transfer. For example, if a member who is issued an anti-exposure coverall transfers to a unit that is not using the anti-exposure coveralls, then the coveralls are required to be returned before transferring.

NOTE 

Members transferring to BM A School shall take only their nonreturnable items (see [Table 2-7](#)) from their home units to the school. BM A school will issue returnable items to students on a temporary basis until graduation.



B.6.f.
Personal
Clothing and
Equipment
Record, Form
AF-538

Document all issues and returns of protective clothing and equipment on Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, Form AF-538. Lines 1 through 20 of the form are used to identify each item issued by article name, serial number (if applicable), quantity issued, size, and date of issue or turn-in. Any mistakes can be corrected by lining through and initialing next to the error. If a block is not used, mark through it with horizontal or vertical lines that are typed or handwritten. Use lines 23 through 27 to identify the unit and the individual receiving the issue. Users shall enter their Employee Identification Number (EMPLID), not their Social Security Number (SSN), in block 25. Section 28 on the second page shall be used to document annual inventory inspections and shall be signed by the individual performing the inspection and the individual accountable for the items. Block 28 is not to be signed upon initial issue, but for annual inventory only. Maintain the unit's Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, Form AF-538, file in a controlled area.

NOTE 

For privacy protection, member shall not enter SSN on the Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, Form AF-538.

R&SS petty officers may use an additional page 1 of the Form AF-538 as a continuation page for listing all gear that is issued.

APPENDIX C contains a blank Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, Form AF-538. **APPENDIX D** contains a filled-out sample of the Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, Form AF-538. The filled-out sample Form AF-538 is also available on the CG-731 website at http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/G-RCB/RSS/Sample_AF_538.pdf.



B.6.h.
Reclamation
Control

The R&SS Petty Officer will reclaim items based on **Table 2-7** below when the individual assigned the equipment is either transferred to a non-Boat-Forces unit or when separating from the service.

Returnable items issued to non-boat crew Cutter personnel should remain with the Cutter.

RETURNABLE ITEMS	NON-RETURNABLE ITEMS
Helmet	Boat Shoes
Raingear Jacket and Pants	Gloves
R&S Gear Bag	Boat Crew Safety Boots
Boat Crew Knife	Layer I Thermal Protection
Anti-Exposure Coverall	Layer II Thermal Protection
Dry Suit	Cold Weather Glove Layer I
Cold Weather Gloves Layers II and III	Thermal Socks
Cold Weather Boots	Neoprene Hood
Goggles	Balaclava
Sunglasses	Watch Cap
	Intermediate Gloves

Table 2-7
Reclamation Control

Unit may store Returnable Items, except the Boat Crew Knife and Dry Suit, in a Ready Service Locker.

Non-returnable items shall not be shared. Non-returnable items shall be issued individually to crew members and scheduled mission personnel.

B.6.i. Equipment
Sizing

Equipment is normally available in sizes ranging from the fifth percentile female to ninety-fifth percentile male. If standard sized equipment does not provide the proper fit and the manufacturer is unable to provide special sizing to meet personnel needs, units are authorized to purchase an alternative item that most closely meets the characteristics of the standard issue PPE.



**D.6. TDT
 Standard
 Clothing Issue**

Items listed in **Table 2-9** are presented and shall be issued in the quantities shown below.

QTY	ITEM
1 each	Helmet
1 each	Wheeled Duffle/Equipment Bag
1 pair	Eye Protection (prescription lens procured from unit funds)
1 each	Shooting Gloves
1 each	Fixed Blade Knife
1 pair	Tactical Boots
1 each	Tactical dry suit or chem-bio dry suit
2 pair	Moisture wicking layer I undergarment (top and bottom)
1 each	Stretch fleece blend layer II undergarment
2 pair	Thermal socks
1 each	Standard/infrared combo strobe light
1 each	SAR ACR personal locator beacon
1 each	SAR whistle
1 each	SAR mirror
1 each	Ballistic Goggles
1 each	Tactical PFD Rescue Equipment Pouch

**Table 2-9
 TDT Standard Clothing Issue**

**D.7. TDT
 Equipment**

All build up, issuance, and documentation of required TDT equipment items shall be conducted IAW current maintenance procedure cards (MPC) with the exception of the fixed blade knife.

NOTE

Refer to Reference (e) for definition of Tactical Operator.

**D.7.a. Fixed
 Blade Knife**

The fixed blade knife shall be carried in a sheath and affixed to the tactical operators' or TDT members' LE belt or drop leg holster in a manner that facilitates immediate access for use in an emergency.



Section E. Ice Rescue Equipment and Protective Clothing Policy

E.1. Station and Cutter Ice Rescue Equipment List

Each Ice Rescue station and cutter is required to have the minimum equipment:

- (01) SKF-ICE,
 - (02) Shuttle Board (2) – one RFI and one for training,
 - (03) Cold Water Sling (2),
 - (04) Ice Awls (Minimum: Stations, 6; Cutters, 3),
 - (05) Hypothermia Recovery Capsule,
 - (06) 150 FT Tending Line (2),
 - (07) 550 FT Line Reel,
 - (08) Ice Rescuer Safety Harness,
 - (09) Head Lamp (Stations, 6; Cutters, 3),
 - (10) Wool blanket (4),
 - (11) Flashlight (2),
 - (12) AOR maps/charts,
 - (13) M127A1 Ground Illumination Signal (6),
 - (14) Handheld GPS (2),
 - (15) VHF-FM radio – (3),
 - (16) Cellular phone - to remain in GV (1),
 - (17) Extra batteries - to remain in GV,
 - (18) Victim PFD (4),
 - (19) Night Vision Device (NVD) (2),
 - (20) Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) (1),
 - (21) Binoculars,
 - (22) Compass,
 - (23) First Aid Kit (with pocket CPR mask).
-



Section F. Cutter Life Raft Policy

F.1. Required Capacity

The number of life rafts carried by a cutter is based on the cutter's total available berthing. Life raft capacities shall be equal to or greater than 125% of the cutter's available berthing. For cutters whose configurations contain liferaft stowage in clusters, life raft capacity shall not be less than 100% of available berthing in the event the ship largest cluster is destroyed. A cluster is defined as life rafts being supported by a common stowage structure. Life rafts shall be kept in a ready status at all times.

F.2. Service Life Limit

Coast Guard-approved life rafts have a service life of 20 years. No life raft or component part of a life raft shall remain in service after 20 years from the date of manufacture. If a life raft exceeds the 20 year service life prior to the expiration of the annual recertification sticker, it shall be removed from service and replaced.

F.3. Life Raft Gripes

Life raft gripes shall be configured and installed in accordance with Reference (m). Gripes shall be plastic covered corrosion resistant steel or nylon covered stainless steel strap. Coast Guard Drawing FL-8201-86 shall be used as the standard installation guidance. View Coast Guard drawing FL-8201-86 at the following Naval Engineering Technical Information Management System web site: <http://10.38.16.120:1088/NE-Tims/index.html>.

F.3.a. Configuration

Life raft release systems used aboard all cutters shall be configured in accordance with Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) Number 4-86, titled "Hydraulic Release Units For Life Rafts, Life Floats and Buoyant Apparatus, and Alternative Float-Free Arrangements." The circular summarizes the requirements for installing and maintaining Coast Guard approved hydraulic release units used with life rafts. Units may obtain NVIC 4-86 from this internet site: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic/>.

NOTE

Specific configurations for each cutter class may be obtained from the applicable Surface Forces Logistics Center product line.

F.4. Life Float

Life floats are used on WLR class cutters on inland navigable water where the cutter's operating area precludes the need for a life raft.

NOTE

Some cutters carry life floats for migrant operations. These life floats should be inspected using the same requirements.



Section G. Waivers and Documentation

G.1. Hypothermia Protective Device Waivers and Documentation

Commanding Officers and Officers-In-Charge, on a single mission basis only, may waive the requirement for wearing a hypothermia protective device only after a determination that the risk associated with crew performance degradation, thermal stress, and environmental considerations are offset by the benefits associated with the waiver. **Figure 2-1** is provided to assist with risk management decisions associated with waiver consideration. Documentation of the factors used to grant a waiver for wearing hypothermia protective devices shall be logged in the unit logbook and signed (written or electronically) by the unit Commanding Officer or Officer-in-Charge for each waiver granted. OOD shall initial inside the waiver log when an oral waiver has been granted by the CO/OIC. CO/OIC shall sign the waiver at earliest opportunity. XO/XPO may sign the waiver log if acting under "By Direction" authority. However, the waiver provision is not authorization to justify granting blanket waivers as unit standard operating procedure. Cutter operational smooth log or other unit equivalents may be used in lieu of waiver log, provided information is recorded.

NOTE

Sector Commanders may delegate waiver authority for Sector personnel to the Deputy Sector Commander, the Response Department Head, and the Prevention Department Head. Delegation shall be in writing.

Units shall record all waivers with the following information: Date, Boat number, Coxswain, air temperature, water temperature, wind speed, mission, PPE required, PPE being worn, OOD signature and CO/OIC signature (written or electronic). In each case covered by a waiver, the CO/OIC shall decide whether waived equipment shall be carried aboard the boat while underway.

NOTE

During ATON missions, crew members may use an anti-exposure coverall in lieu of a dry suit when air and water temperatures are both below 50 degrees at the discretion of the officer in charge. If the industrial dry suit is used then units shall wear the dry suit in cold weather environments because purchasing the sacrificial shell is roughly the same cost as purchasing an anti-exposure coverall.

NOTE

Cutter boarding officers and boarding team members are not required to carry hypothermia protective devices on board cutter boats during waiver conditions authorized by the commanding officer or officer in charge. Conditions of waiver shall be logged in unit PPE waiver log.



A.5. Type III Flotation Jacket

The Coast Guard-approved Type III flotation jacket (Float Coat) may be used in lieu of vest type, Type III PFDs when air and water temperatures are not cold enough to warrant the use of anti-exposure coveralls or dry suits (Refer to **Table 2-5** and **Table 2-6**).

When Type III flotation jackets are selected for use on shore and cutter based boat missions, all crewmembers shall wear the flotation jacket under the boat crew survival vest.

A.6. Cold Weather Diving Topside Ensemble (CWDTE)

The CWDTE is intended for use by diving personnel performing diving operations in cold water (37 F or colder) or ice-covered environments. It is authorized only for icebreaker dive teams.

A.7. Standard Navy PFD with Collar

The standard Navy PFD with collar is required for use by cutter crewmembers at general quarters or engaged in underway replenishment, towing, and abandon ship operations. The standard Navy PFD with collar is also routinely used on weather decks during heavy weather.

A.8. Abandon Ship Life Preserver

The Abandon Ship Life Preserver is used by cutter crewmembers in high heat areas and/or confined spaces during general emergency conditions.

A.9. Non-Coast Guard Approved Automatic/Manual Inflatable PFDs

Non-Coast Guard approved automatic/manual inflatable devices require completion of an associated performance qualification standard (PQS) that is unique to the specific device. **The performance qualification standard shall be completed and placed in the member's training record prior to using the PFD**, and kept on file with the R&SS Petty Officer. Applicable PQS is located on the Office of Boat Forces website RSS PQS page:

http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/g-rcb/RSS_PQS.htm.

WARNING 

Damaged preservers shall be repaired or replaced immediately. Torn or punctured buoyancy chambers shall be replaced and not repaired.

WARNING 

Harnesses of all types, such as the boat swimmer harness and other climbing safety harnesses, shall not be used with automatically inflating PFDs. Harnesses worn over inflatable PFDs can restrict the outward inflating action and may prevent breathing or cause crushing injuries to the upper torso.

WARNING 

Automatically inflatable PFDs are known to hinder egress in an enclosed cabin environment and are not authorized for use on helicopters. The exception is the Mustang Survival MD-1250, which is authorized onboard helicopters for trained users.



A.9.a. Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 with Survival Equipment Pockets

The Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 with survival equipment pockets is optional equipment that can be used in lieu of inherently buoyant PFDs and boat crew survival vest combination. It may be used on shore and cutter based boat missions by crewmembers who have completed the Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 performance qualification standard. Boarding officers and boarding team members who have completed the Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 performance qualification standard may wear the MD-3183 v22, but a personal marker light or strobe light and the whistle are required.

A.9.b. Lifesaving Systems Life Preserver Survival Vest

The Life Preserver Survival Vest (LPSV) is optional equipment that can be used in lieu of the inherently buoyant PFD and survival vest combination. It may be used on shore and cutter based boat missions by coxswains, crewmembers, boarding officers and boarding team members who have completed the LPSV performance qualification standard.

A.9.c. Mustang Survival MD-1250

The MD-1250 is required to be worn when wearing a ballistic plate carrier over the water. Configuration of the MD-1250 and the Tactical PFD Rescue Equipment Pouch shall be in accordance with appropriate MPC. In order to wear the MD-1250, user must successfully complete the Water Survival Training Program (WSTP) in accordance with Reference (k).

A.9.d. Mustang Survival MD-0450-v22

The MD-0450-v22 may be worn when conditions call for a low profile flotation system that does not interfere with LE gear. When worn, the MD-0450-v22 shall be the outermost garment, with the waist belt adjusted to remove all slack so that it fits snugly around the torso.

NOTE 

The MD-0450-v22 can be fitted with the MA7219 manual conversion cap when authorized.



Section B. Standard Issue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Wear Policy

Overview This Section describes wear policy for Coast Guard Standard Issue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Characteristics of the gear are discussed in Part 3 **Equipment** of this Manual.

B.1. Helmets CG personnel shall wear head protection during hazardous conditions such as:

- (01) Boat lowering and recovery detail,
- (02) Heavy weather,
- (03) Surf,
- (04) Ice rescue,
- (05) Helicopter operations,
- (06) Ports, Waterways and Coastal Security (PWCS) missions,
- (07) Pursuit missions,
- (08) When operating alongside a vessel where risk from falling objects is a factor, or
- (09) During underway vessel-to-vessel transfers at the discretion of the coxswain.

A hardhat with chin strap meets the head protection requirement for:

- (10) ATON personnel,
- (11) Boat lowering and recovery detail personnel, and
- (12) Scheduled mission personnel (excluding boarding teams and training teams).

NOTE 

Helmet wear is at the discretion of the unit CO/OIC for the following personnel:

- (01) Crews traveling at speed of 30 knots or greater or
- (02) ATON or
- (03) other crews engaged in activities OTHER THAN:
 - a) SZ enforcement,
 - b) NCV pursuit activities,
 - c) those activities described in paragraph **B.1. Helmets** above.

CO/OIC should provide additional guidance in the unit's SOP.

B.2. Layering As discussed in Reference (c), protective clothing can be categorized by layers. In this Manual, Layer I is a wicking layer worn closest to the skin, Layer II is an insulating layer, and Layer III is a moisture barrier. These three layers are usually used together in cold weather ensembles, such as the MCWSS (discussed in Chapter 4, Section A.1. **Maritime Cold Weather Suit System (MCWSS)**), however, the moisture barrier may be worn alone, as with Layer III items such as rain gear and gloves.



B.3. Rain Gear

Rain gear should be worn as the primary Layer III garment when exposure to intermittent sea spray or rain is encountered.

**B.3.a.
Alternate Issue**

Units authorized to wear the camouflage utility uniform (CUU) may issue the CUU compatible GORE-TEX to requesting personnel.

ATON units may issue a PVC style rain gear meeting all other above mentioned SPECS for wear during ATON specific work when increased risk of destroying the rain gear is likely.

**B.4.
Intermediate
Gloves**

Intermediate Gloves shall be worn as required to provide thermal protection in intermediate cold/wet weather.

B.5. Goggles

Goggles provide benefits for personnel in various Coast Guard roles, and in some conditions their wear is required.

**B.6. R&S Gear
Bag**

Personnel issued protective clothing and equipment shall use this bag for gear storage.

**B.7.
Sunglasses**

Sunglasses should be worn by personnel to prevent radiation trauma.

**B.8. Boat Crew
Safety Boot**

Personnel shall wear the temperate/wet weather boots in air and water temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

B.9. Boat Shoes

Boat shoes may be worn when working aboard boats where non-slip traction and non-marking soles are required, such as when boarding recreational boats and during vessel inspection where appropriate.

**B.10. Boat
Crew Survival
Vest**

The boat crew survival vest shall be worn by all crewmembers over a Type III Coast Guard-approved PFD, Anti-Exposure Coverall, or Float Coat on all missions. The components of the boat crew survival vest shall not be removed unless needed.

Directors of Auxiliary may issue boat crew survival vests with required non-pyrotechnic equipment to crewmembers, or Auxiliarists may carry their non-pyrotechnic equipment in pockets built into the authorized Type III or inflatable PFD. The waist belt pocket part number found on the Inflatable PFD Maintenance Procedure Card (MPC) is the only authorized model.

WARNING

The boat crew survival vest provides no buoyancy and shall be worn by all crewmembers over a Type III Coast Guard approved PFD or over anti-exposure coveralls.



B.11. Anti-Exposure Coveralls

Personnel shall wear anti-exposure coveralls when operating in conditions requiring anti-exposure coverall use. Refer to [Table 2-5](#) and [Table 2-6](#) to determine when anti-exposure coverall use is required. If the boat crew survival vest is not worn over this PFD, a personal marker light or strobe light and the whistle are required.

B.12. Crew Restraint Systems

Crew restraint systems are designed to prevent crew injury and/or ejection. These systems are specific to each boat type, are covered in the appropriate Operator's Handbook, and include:

- (01) Quick release seatbelts,
- (02) Seatbelts/seat harnesses,
- (03) Foot straps, and
- (04) Heavy weather belts (Motor Life Boats (MLB) only).

Anytime Boat Forces assets engage in SZ enforcement or Non-Compliant Vessel (NCV) pursuit activities, (including training), all crewmembers are required to use crew restraint systems and/or gunner restraint systems. Boats conducting SZ enforcement or Non-Compliant Vessel Pursuit (NCVP) activities shall not get underway with more personnel than available restraint systems.

B.12.a. Exceptions to Policy

The 25' Transportable Port Security Boat (TPSB) (Boston Whaler) and the 41' Utility Boat (UTB) are not equipped with crew restraint systems. These crews are exempt from use of crew restraints; however, the gunner is required to wear the gunner restraint system.

Resident School Instructors, unit Designated Trainers, and Standardization Team Evaluators are exempt from crew restraint requirements if both hands are free and it is a training/evaluation mission as governed by their SOP.

B.13. Boat Crew Safety Belt

For all boats outfitted with crew safety belts: coxswains, crewmembers, boarding officers, boarding team members and scheduled mission personnel shall use the boat crew safety belt as a safety restraint system during hazardous conditions such as heavy weather and surf as defined in Reference (c).

B.14. Gunner Restraint System

Personnel manning the MAW on boats are required to use the gunner restraint system. Personnel firing shoulder fired small arms shall be either tethered or restrained by a crew restraint system. Prior to deployment, Boat Forces personnel shall become thoroughly familiar with the proper attachment points, wear, and operation of the boat gunner restraint system explained in Reference (c).



Section C. Cold Weather Equipment Wear Policy

Overview	This Section describes wear policy for the minimum outfit of cold weather clothing and equipment required to safely perform the duties required of personnel operating shore and cutter based boats in areas where the air and water temperatures both fall below 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
C.1. Dry Suits	A dry suit is the primary Layer III garment worn when a constant-wear suit designed to preclude the entry of water upon immersion is needed.
C.1.a. Maritime Cold Weather Suit System (MCWSS)	The MCWSS is the primary dry suit worn by CG personnel. Refer to Table 2-5 and Table 2-6 to determine when dry suit use is required.
C.1.a.1. Required Layering	Personnel shall wear Layer I and Layer II thermal underwear as part of the dry suit, unless water temperatures exceed 60 degrees, in which case personnel may wear, in lieu of Work Uniform, a Dry Suit with Layer I or Layer II (wearing both Layer I and II are not required in this instance).
C.1.a.2. Neoprene Hood	The neoprene hood is an integral component of the MCWSS and shall be carried by all personnel.
C.1.b. Industrial Style Dry Suit	Coxswains, crewmembers, boarding officers and boarding team members may use the Industrial breathable marine survival system in lieu of the MCWSS when operating in conditions requiring dry suit use. Refer to Table 2-5 and Table 2-6 to determine when dry suit use is required.
C.2. Thermal Socks	<p>Thermal socks are an integral part of the MCWSS and Industrial Style Dry Suit. Coxswains, crewmembers, boarding officers and boarding team members and inspection teams operating in cold environments where added thermal protection to the feet is necessary shall wear thermal socks.</p> <p>Cotton socks shall not be worn for thermal protection. Cotton absorbs and retains moisture, robs the body heat, and can cause rapid onset of hypothermia.</p>



Section A. Personal Flotation Device

Overview

This personal flotation device policy section establishes operational polices and the minimum personal flotation requirements for specific evolutions on Coast Guard vessels. The following policies are established:

- (01) Command responsibility and risk management
- (02) Minimum flotation requirements

A.1. Risk Management and PFD Selection

The minimum flotation standards required for most Coast Guard vessel operations can be achieved by using the inherently buoyant Coast Guard approved Type III PFD. Specific cutter deck operations require a different flotation standard. Commanding Officers and Officers-In-Charge, in conjunction with the crew, shall determine the most appropriate PFD type to be used during each operational mission or evolution. Mission planning for underway operations as well as dockside maintenance periods shall include an assessment of personal survivability and risk management. This analysis shall be based on the possibility that the crew might be forced into a survival situation during any phase of operations. If the conditions are unknown, personnel shall be prepared for the most adverse conditions by selecting the inherently buoyant Coast Guard approved Type I PFD.

A.1.a. Minimum Required Gear

A personal marker light or strobe light and whistle are not required to be attached when worn with the boat crew survival vest. If the boat crew survival vest is not worn over any authorized PFD, a personal marker light or strobe light and the whistle shall be required.

NOTE

ATON units only shall include the knife as part of their minimum gear when the boat crew survival vest is not worn.

A.2. Minimum Flotation Requirements

It is not possible to identify all operational evolutions and assign or establish a minimum flotation requirement for each.

The risks associated with some operations have been evaluated and the following minimum flotation requirements shall be complied with for the given operations identified. Commanding Officers and Officers-in-Charge shall evaluate all operations not presented for risk at the unit level and apply the appropriate flotation requirements.



A.2.a.
Shore and Cutter
Based Boat
Operations

The Coast Guard approved Type III PFD is established as the inherently buoyant minimum flotation requirement for shore and cutter based boat operations. This policy includes law enforcement boarding operations. Alternatives to this requirement include:

- (01) Stearns® Model I600 Type I,
- (02) Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 with survival equipment pockets,
- (03) Mustang Survival MD-0450 v22,
- (04) Lifesaving Systems Life Preserver Survival Vest 485-CG,
- (05) Lifesaving Systems 481CG,
- (06) Anti-exposure Coveralls with boat crew survival vest,
- (07) Flotation Jacket with boat crew survival vest.

A.2.b.
Cutter Towing
and Buoy Deck
Operations

The minimum flotation requirement for cutter towing and buoy deck operations is established as the inherently buoyant Coast Guard approved Type III PFD. Alternatives to this requirement include:

- (01) Stearns® Model I600 Type I,
- (02) Flotation Jacket,
- (03) Anti-exposure Coveralls.

A.2.c.
Markings

PFDs, anti-exposure coveralls, and float coats shall be orange and/or orange-black in color and marked as follows:

- (01) On the left breast, with a Coast Guard emblem as described in Title 33 CFR Subpart 23. The emblem shall have a diameter of three inches, plus or minus ¼ inch.
- (02) On the right breast, with a Coast Guard ensign as described in Title 33 CFR Subpart 23. The ensign shall measure 2½ inches in height and 3½ inches in width, plus or minus ¼ inch. This right-breast ensign is not authorized for Auxiliary members.
- (03) In the center of the back, with the words “U.S. COAST GUARD” in block letters measuring 2½ inches plus or minus ½ inch. Lettering shall be solid black or white against the international orange background. For Auxiliary members, “AUX” or “AUXILIARY” shall be placed, in the same style of lettering, after the “U.S. COAST GUARD” lettering.

Identification markings should be applied using a silk-screen process or embroidered patch. Silk-screened markings are available from manufacturers or distributors. The embroidered patch may be procured locally and sewn or attached to the garment using adhesive.



A.2.d.
Tactical
Operations

The minimum flotation requirement for Tactical operations is established as the inherently buoyant Coast Guard Approved Type III PFD. Options to this requirement include the following:

- (01) Tactical Flotation System, MD-1250 (worn only with Ballistic Protection System),
 - (02) Stearns® Model I600 Type I,
 - (03) Mustang Survival MD-0450 v22,
 - (04) Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 with survival equipment pockets,
 - (05) Lifesaving Systems Life Preserver Survival Vest,
 - (06) Anti-exposure Coveralls with boat crew survival vest,
 - (07) Flotation Jacket with boat crew survival vest.
-



Section B. Coast Guard Approved Inherently Buoyant PFDs

Overview This Section describes the Coast Guard approved inherently buoyant devices and the policies pertaining to their use. The following items are presented:

- (01) Stearns® Model I600 Type I
- (02) Type III
- (03) Survivors Type I
- (04) Type III Flotation Jacket
- (05) Anti-Exposure Coveralls (see chapter 3)

B.1. Stearns® Model I600 Type I



The Stearns® Model I600 Type I PFD is used as the standard abandon ship PFD and is intended to replace the Navy Standard PFD with Collar on an attrition basis.

B.1.a. Application

This PFD may be used by Coast Guard boat and cutter crews as directed by the unit Commanding Officer/Officer-In-Charge, based on conditions encountered that may require a higher level of flotation characteristics than the Coast Guard-approved Type III device. This device provides greater mobility than the survivors Type I when the use of law enforcement or other types of gear are required. When the Stearns® model I600 is selected for use on shore and cutter based boat missions, the boat crew survival vest shall be worn over it by crewmembers.

The Stearns® Model I600 is the only Coast Guard-Approved Type I PFD authorized for military law enforcement/boat crewmember's use.



B.1.b.
Salient
Characteristics

The Stearns® Model I600 Type I PFD is a low profile, inherently buoyant, and universally sized device that will turn an unconscious or exhausted crewmember face up while in the water and wearing law enforcement equipment such as weapons and ballistic panel inserts. It provides 22 pounds of buoyancy. A harness D-ring slit is cut into the back panel to facilitate the tending harness D-ring. A pocket is installed on the front to hold a strobe light and whistle. Two models are available:

- (01) The Stearns® model I600 ORG NLT includes the flat orange whistle and the ACR Firefly III strobe light.
- (02) The Stearns® model I600 ORG NAV does not include the strobe light or the flat orange whistle.

B.1.c.
Inspection

Build-up, semi-annual and post use inspection procedures are contained in the applicable MPC.

B.1.d.
Supply Sources

Procure the USCG approved Type I PFD, meeting any salient characteristics and other requirements specified above, in accordance with Reference (h).



B.2. Type III



The Coast Guard-approved Type III PFD is used by Coast Guard boat and cutter crews as directed by the unit Commanding Officer/Officer-In-Charge, based on conditions not requiring the use of a Type I device.

**B.2.a.
Application**

This device provides the best mobility for cutter crewmembers working over the side and boat crewmembers as the normal outfit. When the Type III is worn by crewmembers for use on shore and cutter based boat missions, the boat crew survival vest shall be worn over it.



**Figure 3-1
Member in Type III PFD**

WARNING

The Coast Guard-Approved Type III PFD will not turn an unconscious or exhausted crewmember face up in the water.

**B.2.b.
Salient
Characteristics**

The Type III vest shall be USCG approved, international orange in color, have SOLAS-grade reflective tape installed for increased visibility in low-light environments, and a D-ring for attachment of a Lanyard/Kill-switch. The vest may be of a solid nylon or mesh on the upper half design. The vest shall be marked in accordance with Part 3, Chapter 1, Paragraph A.2.d. **Markings** of this Manual. This is a low profile, vest type and inherently buoyant PFD that provides the most mobility. The vest provides 15 ½ pounds of buoyancy. A personal marker light or strobe light and whistle are not required to be attached when worn in conjunction with the boat crew survival vest. If the boat crew survival vest is not worn over this PFD, a personal marker light or strobe light and the whistle are required.



Section D. Non-Coast Guard Approved Automatic/Manual Inflatable PFDs

Overview

This Section describes the Non-Coast Guard approved automatic/manual inflatable devices and the policies pertaining to their use. Each of the devices presented requires completion of an associated performance qualification standard that is unique to the specific device. **The performance qualification standard shall be completed and placed in the member's training record prior to using the PFD**, and kept on file with the R&SS Petty Officer. PFD PQS can be found on the Boat Forces website: http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/g-rcb/RSS_PQS.htm. Similar products from other vendors may be available; however, prior to procurement and use, similar products shall be evaluated and approved for use by the Rescue and Survival Systems Program Manager. The following items are presented:

- (01) Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 with survival equipment pocket,
- (02) Lifesaving Systems Life Preserver Survival Vest 485 CG,
- (03) Mustang Survival MD-1250 (required when wearing a ballistic plate carrier),
- (04) Mustang Survival MD-0450 v22,
- (05) Lifesaving Systems 481CG.

WARNING

Damaged preservers shall be repaired or replaced immediately. Torn or punctured buoyancy chambers shall be replaced and not repaired.

WARNING

Automatically inflatable PFDs are known to hinder egress in an enclosed cabin environment and are not authorized for use on helicopters. The exception is the Mustang Survival MD-1250, which is authorized onboard helicopters for trained users.

CAUTION!

Personnel wearing automatically inflatable PFD shall pull handle to deploy actuator as soon as they are in the water. Do not wait for auto-activation when in water.



D.1. Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 with Survival Equipment Pockets

The Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 with survival equipment pockets may be used on shore and cutter based boat missions by coxswains, crewmembers, boarding officers and boarding team members who have completed the Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 performance qualification standard.



D.1.a. Application

The Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 is optional equipment that can be used in lieu of inherently buoyant PFDs and boat crew survival vest combination. The Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 is an automatic/manual inflatable PFD and with survival equipment pockets for carrying survival items required during operational missions. The Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 can be worn over ODU, anti-exposure coveralls, dry suits or float coats on all missions. The survival items of the Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 survival equipment pockets shall not be removed to other devices.

WARNING 

Harnesses of all types, such as the boat swimmer harness and other climbing safety harnesses, shall not be used with automatically inflating PFDs. Harnesses worn over inflatable PFDs can restrict the outward inflating action and may prevent breathing or cause crushing injuries to the upper torso.

WARNING 

Automatically inflatable PFDs are known to hinder egress in an enclosed cabin environment and are not authorized for use on helicopters. The exception is the Mustang Survival MD-1250, which is authorized onboard helicopters for trained users.

CAUTION!

Personnel wearing automatically inflatable Mustang PFD shall pull handle to deploy actuator as soon as they are in the water. If the handle is not pulled manually, the actuator will not automatically trigger until it has been deeper than four inches for up to ten seconds.

D.1.b. Salient Characteristics

The Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 is a low profile inflatable buoyancy chamber and a survival equipment pockets attached to a nylon webbing support harness. The buoyancy chamber and equipment pockets are orange nylon material with Coast Guard markings and SOLAS grade retro-reflective tape is applied for increased visibility in low-light environments. An automatic/manual inflatable flotation chamber provides 35 pounds of buoyancy. The inflation assembly is a carbon dioxide cylinder actuator that is manually inflated by pulling the beaded inflation lanyard or automatically inflates upon submersion in fresh water or seawater. The Mustang Survival MD-3183 v22 is available as one size fits all and has a waist adjustment strap for fitting to individual comfort.



A.6. Other EPIRB Variants

This Section contains information about different types of EPIRBs commercially available. This data is provided for informational purposes only and does not establish requirements for use of the items discussed.

A.6.a.
406 MHz
Personal
Locating Beacon
(PLB)

The 406 MHz Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is a handheld version of the 406 EPIRB. It must be Cosmicheskaya Sistyema Poiska Avariynich Sudov - Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking (COSPAS-SARSAT) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) -certified and manufactured for use in the marine environment. It operates on 406MHz and 121.5 MHz. operating temperature of a Class 1 is -40°F to 131°F. Operating temperature of a Class 2 is -4°F to 131°F.

A.6.a.1.
PLB 30-Day
Check

The 30-day check for the PLB, if not already performed within the past 30 days, shall be performed immediately prior to getting underway. If the PLB fails this pre-underway check, the PLB shall be removed from service and replaced prior to getting underway.



Section B. Standard Clothing and Equipment

Overview

This Standard Clothing and Equipment Section provides information for the following equipment:

- (01) Helmets,
 - (02) Rain gear,
 - (03) Boat crew knife,
 - (04) Intermediate gloves,
 - (05) Goggles,
 - (06) R&S Gear Bag,
 - (07) Sunglasses,
 - (08) Boat crew safety boot,
 - (09) Boat shoes,
 - (10) Anti-exposure coveralls.
-



A.4. Thermal Socks



Thermal socks are an integral part of the MCWSS and Industrial Style Dry Suit.

A.4.a.
Application

Coxswains, crewmembers, boarding officers and boarding team members and inspection teams operating in cold environments where added thermal protection to the feet is necessary shall wear thermal socks.

WARNING 

Cotton socks shall not be worn for thermal protection. Cotton absorbs and retains moisture, robbing the body heat and can cause rapid onset of hypothermia.

A.4.b.
Salient
Characteristics

Thermal socks are made of a fleece material similar to the fleece jumper, wool or a moisture-wicking fabric. Thermal socks with legs 12 inches long are preferred.



A.5. Neoprene Hood



The neoprene hood is an integral component of the MCWSS and shall be carried by all personnel.

A.5.a. Application

Neoprene hoods shall be donned anytime a crewmember enters water that is 50°F or lower. Units shall ensure the Velcro and retro-reflective tape are sewn and not glued to the hood.

NOTE

Personnel in possession of neoprene hood with glued Velcro and/or retro-reflective tape shall sew the Velcro and/or tape in place to secure it.

The neoprene hood is required to be stored in a pocket of the dry suit.

A.5.b. Salient Characteristics

The neoprene hood is constructed of international orange, 2 to 5-millimeter closed cell neoprene fabric that covers the entire head and neck area except for the face opening. An adjustable mouth guard is attached to the hood. No less than 24 inches of SOLAS grade retro-reflective tape is applied for increased visibility in low-light environments. A pile tape patch is installed for attachment of the strobe light/PLB. Contact the manufacturer for sizing requirements.



Section B. Cold Weather Accessories

Overview This Dry Suits Section provides information for the following equipment:

- (01) Cold weather boots,
- (02) Balaclava,
- (03) Watch cap.

B.1. Cold Weather Boots



Crewmembers and scheduled mission personnel shall wear the cold weather boot when the dry suit is required to be worn.

B.1.a. Application Boot design includes thermal insulation and protects the wearer's foot from immersion, thermal injury and impact.

B.1.b. Salient Characteristics The cold weather boot is 8 to 16 inches high, slip-on or lace-up closure, 100% waterproof with a non-marking/non-slip waterproof outsole. Acceptable colors for the boot are black, brown, navy, or dark green.

The cold weather boot is constructed of waterproof material and thermal insulation. It has an impact-reducing sole, a composite safety toe, and a composite or metal shank.



B.2. Balaclava

Coxswains, crewmembers, boarding officers and boarding team members and inspection teams operating in cold environments where added thermal protection for the head is necessary shall wear the Balaclava.



B.2.a.
Salient
Characteristics

The Balaclava is black in color and is available in small, medium and large sizes. The balaclava is polypropylene or fleece, may be worn in conjunction with the watch cap or protective helmet and provides protection from wind, rain and sea spray.



Section B. Cutter Equipment

Overview This Section describes additional equipment required on board cutters.

B.1. Immersion Suit The immersion suit is worn when abandoning ship.



Figure 3-10
Immersion Suit
Polyvinyl Chloride Foam (Left) and Nylon-lined Neoprene (Right)

B.3.a. Immersion suits are required for each person aboard cutters operating on the Application ocean or Great Lakes in all areas north of 32 degrees north latitude and south of 32 degrees south latitude.

The number of immersion suits available on cutters is based on 125% of available berthing.

B.3.b. Immersion suits shall be USCG approved in accordance with 46 CFR Salient 160.171. The immersion suit is a one-piece international orange garment Characteristics constructed of 3/16-inch nylon lined neoprene or polyvinyl chloride foam. It has a front entry slide fastener for easy fast entry. The garment is hooded and gloved and is available as a one size fits all suit. The immersion suit provides 35 pounds of buoyancy.



NOTE 

Once the immersion suit is donned the mobility and dexterity of the user is somewhat diminished. During abandon ship drills, don the immersion suit and practice moving about and manipulating signaling devices with gloved hands.
