



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Lifesaving Equipment Interim Rule and Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rule Making Published

The U.S. Coast Guard today announces the publication in the *Federal Register* of an Interim Rule amending regulations for lifesaving equipment, and a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM) that seeks to further amend regulations addressing life rafts and inflatable buoyant apparatuses.

Through the Interim Rule, the Coast Guard is amending its regulations for lifesaving equipment, including launching appliances (winches and davits), release mechanisms, survival craft (lifeboats, liferafts, and buoyant apparatuses), rescue boats, and automatic disengaging devices. The rule harmonizes the Coast Guard's design, construction, and performance standards for lifesaving equipment with international standards.

In addition, the interim rule provides for the use of qualified independent laboratories during the approval process and for production inspections for certain lifesaving equipment.

The Interim Rule also revises the structure of certain subparts affected by this rulemaking and makes additional appliance-specific changes within these subparts not related to harmonization with international standards or use of independent laboratories.

In the SNPRM, the Coast Guard also proposes to amend the interim rule for inflatable liferafts and inflatable buoyant apparatuses to additionally harmonize Coast Guard regulations with recently adopted international standards affecting assumed occupant weight.

The Interim Rule, the SNPRM, and related materials may be reviewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-2010-0048.

For more information on this rule making, please contact Mr. George Grills, P.E. at (202) 372-1385 or George.G.Grills@uscg.mil.

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