



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Inspections and Compliance Directorate
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Out of the Water Survival Craft for Fixed Manned Offshore Platforms

The Coast Guard is issuing this Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) to provide further clarification regarding Out of the Water Survival Crafts for fixed manned offshore platforms, and to ensure that the affected operators have begun preparations for when those survival craft(s) will need to be changed. The statutory text referenced in MSIB 09-15, *Implementation of Out of the Water Survival Craft Requirements for Commercial Vessels*, dated August 26, 2015, applies to inspected vessels and equipment approval. As of February 26, 2016 Life Floats (LF) will no longer be Coast Guard approved and the availability of this equipment will cease, thus affecting fixed manned offshore platforms. For fixed manned offshore platforms, the problem will come when these life floats become non-serviceable and need to be replaced. Repairs will not be accepted or authorized regarding existing life floats and there will not be “in-kind” Coast Guard approved equipment to replace them. Therefore, operators will need to replace them with Coast Guard approved survival craft, as provided for in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 144.01-15. In addition, as long as the life float is still serviceable, it may stay in service until such a time that the regulations change.

When you plan to change out your survival craft, the following list of points is designed to assist you in developing your compliance plan, and will facilitate any necessary discussions with the Coast Guard.

- Please consider how and where the Out of the Water Survival Craft(s) will be installed, accounting for stowage height and location in relation to egress ladders and landings. The requirements are prescribed in 33 CFR 144.01-5. Also, keep in mind that any changes to lifesaving arrangements onboard will require an update to any onboard safety plan, station bill, and emergency evacuation plan. Consult with your local OCMI if you have any additional questions regarding onboard lifesaving equipment.
- Please consider how Out of the Water Survival Craft(s) will be deployed manually and how personnel will egress to the survival craft.
- Please consider market demand for Out of the Water Survival Craft(s), and plan accordingly for procurement and/or servicing.

Questions concerning this notice should be directed to the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Commandant (CG-CVC) at 202-372-1236.

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This release has been issued for public information and notification purposes only.