



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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U.S. Coast Guard Announces Publication of Inflatable Recreational Personal Flotation Devices Proposed Rule

The U.S. Coast Guard announced publication today in the *Federal Register* of a notice of proposed rulemaking that would amend regulations for inflatable recreational personal flotation devices.

The Coast Guard is proposing to update its regulations for inflatable recreational personal flotation devices (PFDs) - commonly referred to as lifejackets or life preservers. This rulemaking would update current Coast Guard structural and performance-based standards for inflatable recreational PFDs by aligning these standards with current voluntary industry consensus standards. Additionally, this rulemaking would slightly modify regulatory text in preparation for a future rulemaking addressing the population for which inflatable recreational PFDs are approved, but does not change the current population at this time.

The Coast Guard previously published a direct final rule on this topic but withdrew it because of adverse public comment. That rule did not become effective as scheduled. Therefore, a new notice of proposed rulemaking has been issued seeking additional public comment.

The proposed rule and related materials may be reviewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-2011-0076.

For more information on this rule making, please contact Ms. Brandi A. Baldwin, P.E. at (202) 372-1394 or Brandi.A.Baldwin@uscg.mil.

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