



MUCH ADO ABOUT RING LIFE BOUYS

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The Coast Guard Commandant's approval and associated number, the amount, size, length of attached line, color, markings, availability, and condition are all requirements for ring life buoys on board commercial fishing industry vessels. This article will briefly identify where exactly these requirements are found in Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 28 (46 CFR 28).

According to 46 CFR 28.105(b), lifesaving equipment must be approved by the Commandant of the Coast Guard. However the acceptable approval numbers; whether a buoyant cushion, ring life buoy, or no throwable flotation device is required; the amount; the size; and the color are all specified in 46 CFR 28.115 on Table 28.115, and depend on the length of the vessel. A copy of the table is provided below.