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**Guidelines for Approval of  
First Aid Kit for Liferafts  
May 1985(updated 2005)  
Guideline 54**

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**1 Scope.**

(a) This subpart contains construction and content requirements for unit type first-aid kits for use on merchant vessel liferafts. Approval procedures are in Part 159 of this Chapter.

**3 Incorporation by reference.**

(a) The following standard is incorporated by reference:- American National Standard ANSI z308.1-1978, Minimum Requirements for Industrial Unit-Type First Aid Kits, available from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.

(b) The following standard is incorporated by reference:- American Society for Testing and Materials Standard ASTM B117-73, Standard Method of Salt Spray (Fog) Testing, available from the American Society for Testing and Materials, 1916 Race St. , Philadelphia PA 19103.

(c) The following standard is incorporated by reference:- The Pharmacopoeia of the United States Nineteenth Revision (1975), published by the U.S. Pharmacopoeia Convention.- Inc. available from the Mack Publishing Company. 20th and No. Hampton Streets Easton PA 18042.

(d) The following Coast Guard specifications are incorporated by reference:- U.S. Coast Guard Specification Subparts are available from Commandant (G-MSE-4), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second Street S.W. Washington. DC 20593.

(i) Subpart 159.005 of this Chapter (Approval Procedures).

(ii) Subpart 159.010 of this Chapter (Independent Laboratory: Acceptance Listing, and Termination).

**ENCLOSURE (3)**

**5 Independent laboratory.**

(a) The approval and production tests in this Subpart must be conducted by, or under the supervision of, an independent laboratory accepted by the Coast Guard under Subpart 159.010 of this Chapter.

**7 Approval procedure.**

(a) General. A liferaft first-aid kit is approved by the Coast Guard under the procedures in Subpart 159.005 of this Chapter.

(b) Approval testing. Each approval test must be conducted in accordance with 17.

**9 Definitions.**

(a) Water resistant. Resistant to penetration but not entirely impervious to water.

(b) Watertight Impenetrable by water.

(c) Unit. A uniform size package which contains one or more complete dressings or applicators of first aid material.

(d) Unit first-aid kit. A portable, compact, watertight kit that holds a specific quantity of units. The units are uniformly arranged in rows for ease of identification, removal, and replacement.

(e) Plastic case first-aid kit. A first-aid kit in a clear vinyl (or equivalent) pouch which meets the construction requirements of 13 and performance requirements of 17(d).

**11 Case and unit carton requirements.**

(a) General case requirements. Each first-aid kit case for liferaft use must be rectangular in shape.

(b) Case type. Each first-aid kit covered by this specification must be constructed with a plastic case meeting 13. Alternate cases meeting the applicable performance requirements of 17 may be considered for acceptance

(c) Unit carton requirements. Each unit carton must be made of bleached sulphite paperboard 0.4 mm - 0.05 mm (0.016 in.± 0.002 in.) thick or of a material of equivalent strength, and must be one of the following sizes

Unit size 1 - 10 cm x 5.7 cm x 1.6 cm (4 in. x 2/14 in. x 5/8 in.)

Unit size 2 - 10 cm x 5.7 cm x 1.9 cm (4 in. x 2 1/4 in. x 3/4 in.)

Unit size 3 - 10 cm x 5.7 cm x 3.2 cm (4 in. x 2 1/4 in. x 1 1/4 in.)

Note. All sizes have ±0.3 cm (+ 1/8 in.) allowable tolerance.

(d) Individual units. Each individual unit must be overwrapped and heat sealed in transparent watertight material at least 0.03 mm (.0012 in) thick. Vinyl, polyethylene film, or equivalent materials will be considered for acceptance.

**13 Kit construction.**

Each kit must be enclosed in a rectangular vinyl (or equivalent) pouch not less than 0.2 mm (0.008 in.) nominal thickness, sealed around three edges, with the fourth edge capable of being opened and reclosed watertight.

**15 Contents.**

(a) Items. The items contained in each first-aid kit must be those listed in Table 15(a)(i). Medicines must meet the requirements of the U.S Pharmacopoeia.

(i) The items listed in Table 15(a)(i) must meet the applicable size, construction, and packaging requirements of ANSI z308.1. Antiseptic swabs and burn treatment compounds proposed by the applicant must be accepted by the Commandant (G-MSE-4)

Table 15(a)(i)  
Contents of Liferaft First-Aid Kit

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit Size Carton</u>	<u>Number of Units</u>
Adhesive Bandage Compress (16 per Unit)	Size 1 or 2	1
Bandage Compress (4 per Unit) 5 cm (2 in.)	Size 1 or 2	1
Bandage Compress (1 per Unit) 10 cm (4 in.)	Size 1	1
Triangular Bandage (1 per Unit)	Size 1 or 2	1
Absorbent Gauze Compress (1 per Unit)	Size 1	1
Gauze Roller Bandage (1 per Unit) 10 cm (4 in.)	Size 1	1
Aluminum Splint (1 per Unit)	Size 1	1
Tourniquet (1 per Unit)	Size 1 or 2	1
Eye Dressing Packet (Pads & Strips) (4 per Unit)	Size 1	1
Eye Wash Solution (30 ml (1 oz) per Unit)	Size 1 or 2	1

Ammonia Inhalants (10 per Unit)	Size 1	1
Antiseptic Swabs (10 per Unit)	Size 1	1
Burn Treatment Compound, Ointment Type (3~O grams (0.11 oz )) (6 per Unit)	Size 1	1
Aspirin, 324 milligram (5 grain) tablets (48 per Unit)	Size 1	1
		14 Units Total

(b) General Instructions. General instructions for the use of the contents of each first-aid kit must be printed in legible type on white paper, laminated or treated to be waterproof. The general instructions for use of the kit must read as follows:

These are General Instructions for the Use of the Items in this First-Aid Kit.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF EACH ITEM ARE LOCATED ON EACH INDIVIDUAL CARTON

<u>Item</u>	<u>Use</u>
Absorbent Gauze Compress	Apply as dressing over large wound.
Adhesive Bandage Compress	Apply as dressing over small wound.
Aluminum Splint	Use to immobilize broken or fractured bones. Pad with gauze or cloth. Hold in place with roller bandage.
Ammonia Inhalant	Break one and inhale for faintness or fainting. DON'T use on suspected heart attack victims.
Antiseptic Swabs	Break one and apply to cuts, scratches, etc., to prevent infection. DON'T use in or around eyes

Aspirin	Adults take 2 tablets ever 4 hours as needed for fever, muscle aches, headaches, and general discomfort.
Bandage Compress 5 cm (2 in.) and 10 cm (4 in.)	Apply as dressing over wound.
Burn Treatment Compound	Apply to minor burns and sunburn. DON'T use in eyes.
Eye Dressing Packet	After washing eye, secure eye pad over eye using adhesive strips.
Eye Wash Solution	Use to cleanse irritated eye prior to applying eye pad
Gauze Roller Bandage	Use to secure bandages, splints, etc.
Tourniquet	Use as last resort in controlling severe bleeding. Loosen a few seconds every 15 minutes.
Triangular Bandage	Use as a sling, tourniquet, or to retain splints or dressings in place.

## 17 Approval testing.

- (a) Five plastic case first-aid kits must pass the following consecutive tests.
  - (1) Salt spray. Each case without contents must be exposed to a salt spray test, as specified by ASTM B117, for 100 hours. There must be no evidence of corrosion or disintegration of the case as a result of this test.
  - (2) Extreme Temperature. One protective pouch without contents must be exposed to a temperature of 65°C (150°F) for one hour and then allowed to cool at 20°C (68°F) for twenty-four hours. Immediately following the twenty-four hour period, each case must be exposed to a temperature of -30°C (-22° F) for one hour. There must be no deterioration of the pouch as a result of this test.
  - (3) Pouch Watertightness. Each complete first-aid kit with its protective pouch closed must be submerged under 30 cm (1 ft.) of water, with the re-closable edge uppermost, for 15 minutes. At the end of this period, the kit must be removed and examined for the presence of water. There must be no seepage inside the pouch.

(4) Carton watertightness One carton from the test kit must be submerged under 30 cm (1 ft.) of water for 15 minutes. There must be no evidence of water leakage when the wrapper is removed.

**19            Marking.**

(a) Plastic case first-aid kits. The plastic pouch of each first-aid kit must be plainly and permanently marked with the following information: name and address of the manufacturer, model number or other identification used by the manufacturer, the Coast Guard Approval Number, and the words "FIRST-AID KIT-for Liferafts." If the means for opening and reclosing the pouch are not self-evident, suitable directions must be marked along the closure. It must also be marked, "To be Kept in the Plastic Pouch to Assure Watertightness" in letters visible from six feet away.