



16711
MCO Policy
Ltr No. 01-96
07 February 1996

From: Commandant
To: Distribution

Subj: EXCESS EQUIPMENT FOUND ON UNINSPECTED COMMERCIAL FISHING
INDUSTRY VESSELS

1. There have been numerous inquiries and discussions concerning the carriage, installation, and maintenance of excess safety and lifesaving equipment onboard commercial fishing industry vessels. Differing interpretations, policy guidance, and enforcement actions have been applied by district program managers and field units. 46 CFR Part 28.140 delineates requirements and the Marine Safety Manual provides guidance on how most of the excess equipment should be addressed. This policy letter is issued to clarify guidance and respond to questions on the carriage and use of excess safety and lifesaving equipment.
2. All safety and lifesaving equipment in excess of that required by 46 CFR Part 28, whether an approved type or not, carried onboard any commercial fishing industry vessel must be:
 - a. Maintained and inspected as required by regulation and in compliance with the manufacturer's guidelines; or
 - b. Distinctly and permanently marked that it is to be used ONLY for training if not meeting the maintenance and inspection standards above; or
 - c. Removed from the vessel if not meeting the maintenance and inspection standards or marked for training as listed above.
3. All excess safety or lifesaving equipment retained onboard a vessel for training purposes shall be stowed in such a manner or location that it will not be mistakenly utilized during an actual emergency.
4. If there are any questions regarding this policy, please contact Lieutenant Commander Jack Kemerer at the above telephone number.


J. E. SCHRINNER
By direction

Dist: All District (m) Offices
All Marine Safety Offices
Marine Safety Center
Marine Safety School