

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991, as amended by CGD 88-079b, 57 FR 34189, Aug. 3, 1992; CGD 95-012, 60 FR 48048, Sept. 18, 1995; USCG-2000-7790, 65 FR 58458, Sept. 29, 2000]

§ 28.115 Ring life buoys.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section and § 28.305, each vessel must be equipped with a throwable flotation device or a ring life buoy as specified in table 28.115. If the vessel is equipped with a ring life buoy, at least one ring life buoy must be equipped with a line which is at least:

(1) 60 feet (18.3 meters) in length for a vessel less than 65 feet (19.8 meters) in length; or

(2) 90 feet (27.4 meters) in length for a vessel 65 feet (19.8 meters) or more in length.

(b) For each vessel less than 65 feet (19.8 meters) in length, an approved 20 inch (0.51 meters) or larger ring life buoy which is in serviceable condition and which was installed on board before September 15, 1991, may be used to meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

TABLE 28.115—THROWABLE FLOTATION DEVICES

Vessel length	Devices required
Less than 16 feet (4.9 meters).	None.
16 feet (4.9 meters) or more, but less than 26 feet (7.9 meters).	1 buoyant cushion, or ring life buoy (Type IV PFD).
26 feet (7.9 meters) or more, but less than 65 feet (19.8 meters).	1 ring life buoy approval number starting with 160.009 or 160.050; orange; at least 24 inch (0.61 meters) size.
65 feet (19.8 meters) or more.	3 ring life buoys, approval number 160.050; orange; at least 24 inch (0.61 meters) size.

NOTE: Certain Type V PFDs are approved for use in substitution for Type IV PFDs, when used in accordance with the conditions stated in the Coast Guard approval label.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991; 56 FR 47679, Sept. 20, 1991; 56 FR 49822, Oct. 1, 1991; CGD 95-012, 60 FR 48048, Sept. 18, 1995]

§ 28.120 Survival craft.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) through (h) of this section and 28.305, each vessel must carry the survival craft specified in Table 28.120(a), Table 28.120(b), or Table 28.120(c), as appropriate for the vessel, in an aggregate

capacity to accommodate the total number of individuals on board.

(b) The requirements of this section do not apply to vessels less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length with 3 or fewer individuals on board which operate within 12 miles of the coastline.

(c) A buoyant apparatus may be substituted instead of the requirements in this section for vessels 10.97 meters (36 feet) or more in length with 3 or fewer individuals on board which operate within 12 miles of the coastline.

(d) Each survival craft installed on board a vessel before September 15, 1991, may continue to be used to meet the requirements of this section provided the survival craft is—

(1) Of the same type as required in Tables 28.120(a), 28.120(b), or 28.120(c), as appropriate for the vessel type; and

(2) Maintained in good and serviceable condition.

(e) Each inflatable liferaft installed on board a vessel before September 15, 1991, may continue to be used to meet the requirements for an approved inflatable liferaft, provided the existing liferaft is—

(1) Maintained in good and serviceable condition as required by Table 28.140; and

(2) Equipped with the equipment pack required by Tables 28.120(a), 28.120(b), or 28.120(c), as appropriate for the vessel type. Where no equipment pack is specified in Tables 28.120(a), 28.120(b), or 28.120(c), a coastal service pack is the minimum required.

(f) A lifeboat may be substituted for any survival craft required by this section, provided it is arranged and equipped in accordance with part 199 of this chapter.

(g) The capacity of an auxiliary craft carried on board a vessel that is integral to and necessary for normal fishing operations will satisfy the requirements of this section for survival craft, except for an inflatable liferaft, provided the craft is readily accessible during an emergency and is capable of safely holding all individuals on board the vessel. If the auxiliary craft is equipped with a Coast Guard required capacity plate, the boat must not be

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loaded so as to exceed the rated capacity.

(h) A vessel less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length that meets the flotation provisions of 33 CFR part 183 is exempt from the requirement for survival craft

in paragraph (a) of this section for operation on—

- (1) Any waters within 12 miles of the coastline.
- (2) Rivers.

TABLE 28.120(a)—SURVIVAL CRAFT FOR DOCUMENTED VESSELS

Area	Vessel type	Survival craft required
Beyond 50 miles of coastline	All	Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS A pack.
Between 20–50 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters	All	Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS B pack.
Between 20–50 miles of coastline, <i>warm</i> waters	All	Inflatable liferaft.
Beyond Boundary Line, between 12–20 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters.	All	Inflatable liferaft.
Beyond Boundary Line, within 12 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters.	10.97 meters (36 feet) or more in length.	Inflatable buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Beyond Boundary Line, within 12 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters.	Less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length.	Buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Beyond Boundary Line, within 20 miles of coastline, <i>warm</i> waters.	All	Life float. See note 2.
Inside Boundary Line, <i>cold</i> waters; or Lakes, bays, sounds, <i>cold</i> waters; or Rivers, <i>cold</i> waters.	10.97 meters (36 feet) or more in length.	Inflatable buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Inside Boundary Line, <i>cold</i> waters; or Lakes, bays, sounds, <i>cold</i> waters; or Rivers, <i>cold</i> waters.	Less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length.	Buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Inside Boundary Line, <i>warm</i> waters; or Lakes, bays, sounds, <i>warm</i> waters; or Rivers, <i>warm</i> waters.	All	None.
Great Lakes, <i>cold</i> waters	10.97 meters (36 feet) or more in length.	Inflatable buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Great Lakes, <i>cold</i> waters	Less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length.	Buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Great Lakes, beyond 3 miles of coastline, <i>warm</i> waters	All	Buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Great Lakes, within 3 miles of coastline, <i>warm</i> waters	All	None.

NOTE: 1. The hierarchy of survival craft in descending order is lifeboat, inflatable liferaft with SOLAS A pack, inflatable liferaft with SOLAS B pack, inflatable liferaft with coastal service pack, inflatable buoyant apparatus, life float, buoyant apparatus. A survival craft higher in the hierarchy may be substituted for any survival craft required in this table.

2. If a vessel carries 3 or fewer individuals within 12 miles of the coastline, see § 28.120 (b) and (c) for carriage substitution.

TABLE 28.120(b)—SURVIVAL CRAFT FOR UNDOCUMENTED VESSELS WITH NOT MORE THAN 16 INDIVIDUALS ON BOARD

Area	Vessel type	Survival craft required
Beyond 20 miles of coastline	All	Inflatable buoyant apparatus.
Beyond Boundary Line, between 12–20 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters.	All	Inflatable buoyant apparatus.
Beyond Boundary Line, within 12 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters.	10.97 meters (36 feet) or more in length.	Buoyant apparatus.
Beyond Boundary Line, within 12 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters.	Less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length.	Buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Beyond Boundary Line, within 20 miles of coastline, <i>warm</i> waters.	All	Life float. See note 2.
Inside Boundary Line, <i>cold</i> waters; or Lakes, bays, sounds, <i>cold</i> waters; or rivers, <i>cold</i> water.	10.97 meters (36 feet) or more in length.	Buoyant apparatus.
Inside Boundary Line, <i>cold</i> waters; or Lakes, bays, sounds, <i>cold</i> waters; or Rivers, <i>cold</i> water.	Less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length.	Buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Inside Boundary Line, <i>warm</i> waters; or Lakes, bays, sounds, <i>warm</i> waters; or Rivers, <i>warm</i> waters.	All	None.
Great Lakes, <i>cold</i> waters	All	Buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Great Lakes, beyond 3 miles of coastline <i>warm</i> waters	All	Buoyant apparatus. See note 2.
Great Lakes, within 3 miles of coastline <i>warm</i> waters ..	All	None.

NOTE: 1. The hierarchy of survival craft in descending order is lifeboat, inflatable liferaft with SOLAS A pack, inflatable liferaft with SOLAS B pack, inflatable liferaft with coastal service pack, inflatable buoyant apparatus, life float, buoyant apparatus. A survival craft higher in the hierarchy may be substituted for any survival craft required in this table.

2. If a vessel carries 3 or fewer individuals within 12 miles of the coastline, see § 28.120 (b) and (c) for carriage substitution.

TABLE 28.120(c)—SURVIVAL CRAFT FOR UNDOCUMENTED VESSELS WITH MORE THAN 16 INDIVIDUALS ON BOARD

Area	Vessel type	Survival craft required
Beyond 50 miles of coastline	All	Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS A pack.
Between 20–50 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters	All	Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS B pack.
Between 20–50 miles of coastline, <i>warm</i> waters	All	Inflatable liferaft.
Beyond Boundary Line, between 12–20 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters.	All	Inflatable liferaft.
Beyond Boundary Line, within 12 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters.	10.97 meters (36 feet) or more in length.	Inflatable buoyant apparatus.
Beyond Boundary Line, within 12 miles of coastline, <i>cold</i> waters.	Less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length.	Buoyant apparatus.
Beyond Boundary Line, within 20 miles of coastline, <i>warm</i> waters.	All	Life float.
Inside Boundary Line, <i>cold</i> waters; or Lakes, bays, sounds, <i>cold</i> waters; or Rivers, <i>cold</i> waters.	10.97 meters (36 feet) or more in length.	Inflatable buoyant apparatus.
Inside Boundary Line, <i>cold</i> waters; or Lakes, bays, sounds, <i>cold</i> waters; or Rivers, <i>cold</i> waters.	Less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length.	Buoyant apparatus.
Inside Boundary Line, <i>warm</i> waters; or Lakes, bays, sounds, <i>warm</i> waters; or Rivers, <i>warm</i> waters.	All	None.
Great Lakes, <i>cold</i> waters	10.97 meters (36 feet) or more in length.	Inflatable buoyant apparatus.
Great Lakes, <i>cold</i> waters	Less than 10.97 meters (36 feet) in length.	Buoyant apparatus.
Great Lakes, beyond 3 miles of coastline <i>warm</i> waters	All	Buoyant apparatus.
Great Lakes, within 3 miles of coastline <i>warm</i> waters ..	All	None.

NOTE: 1. The hierarchy of survival craft in descending order is lifeboat, liferaft with SOLAS A pack, Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS A pack, liferaft with SOLAS B pack, Inflatable liferaft with SOLAS B pack, Inflatable liferaft with coastal service pack, inflatable buoyant apparatus, life float, buoyant apparatus. A survival craft higher in the hierarchy may be substituted for any survival craft required in this table.

[CGD 96-046, 61 FR 57273, Nov. 5, 1996; CGD 96-046, 61 FR 68162, Dec. 27, 1996, as amended by CGD 96-046, 62 FR 46676, Sept. 4, 1997; USCG-2002-13058, 67 FR 61278, Sept. 30, 2002]

§ 28.125 Stowage of survival craft.

(a) Each inflatable liferaft required to be equipped with a SOLAS A or a SOLAS B equipment pack must be stowed so as to float free and automatically inflate in the event the vessel sinks.

(b) Each inflatable liferaft, inflatable buoyant apparatus, and any auxiliary craft used in their place, must be kept readily accessible for launching or be stowed so as to float free in the event the vessel sinks.

(c) Each hydrostatic release unit used in a float-free arrangement must be approved under part 160, subpart 160.062 of this chapter.

(d) Each float-free link used with a buoyant apparatus or with a life float must be certified to meet part 160, subpart 160.073 of this chapter.

§ 28.130 Survival craft equipment.

(a) *General.* Each item of survival craft equipment must be of good quality, effective for the purpose it is intended to serve, and secured to the craft.

(b) *Inflatable liferafts.* Each inflatable liferaft must have one of the following equipment packs as shown by the markings on its container:

- (1) Coastal Service;
- (2) SOLAS B Pack (formerly “Limited Service”); or
- (3) SOLAS A Pack (formerly “Ocean Service”).

(c) Each life float and buoyant apparatus must be fitted with a lifeline, pendants, a painter, and a floating electric water light approved under part 161 subpart 161.010 of this chapter.

(d) *Other survival craft.* A vessel must not carry survival craft other than inflatable liferafts, life floats, inflatable buoyant apparatus, or buoyant apparatus, such as lifeboats or rigid liferafts, unless the survival craft and launching equipment comply with the requirements for installation, arrangement, equipment, and maintenance contained in 46 CFR part 199.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991, as amended by CGD 84-069, 63 FR 52813, Oct. 1, 1998]