

(2) Is made of bronze wire rope, inherently corrosion resistant steel wire rope, or galvanized or tinned steel wire rope;

(3) Is made up of enough 15.2 meters (50 foot) or greater lengths of wire rope to permit use of the outfit in any location on the unit;

(4) Has each end fitted with a hook with a 16 millimeters ( $\frac{5}{8}$  inch) throat opening for the keeper; and

(5) Has a minimum breaking strength of 680 kilograms (1,500 pounds).

(e) Boots and gloves that are made of rubber or other electrically non-conductive material;

(f) A helmet that meets the requirements in ANSI standard Z-89.1-1969; and

(g) Clothing that protects the skin from scalding steam and the heat of fire and that has a water resistant outer surface.

[CGD 73-251, 43 FR 56808, Dec. 4, 1978, as amended by CGD 82-042, 53 FR 17705, May 18, 1988; CGD 86-036, 57 FR 48326, Oct. 23, 1992; USCG 1999-5151, 64 FR 67182, Dec. 1, 1999]

#### § 108.499 Fire axes.

Each unit must have at least two fire axes.

### Subpart E—Lifesaving Equipment

SOURCE: CGD 84-069, 61 FR 25291, May 20, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 108.500 General.

(a) Each unit, other than a drillship, must meet the requirements in this subpart.

(b) Each drillship must meet the lifesaving system requirements in subchapter W of this chapter for a tank vessel certificated to carry cargoes that have a flash point less than 60 °C as determined under ASTM D 93 (incorporated by reference, see § 108.101).

(c) The OCMI may require a unit to carry specialized or additional lifesaving equipment other than as required by this part, if the OCMI determines the conditions of the unit's service present uniquely hazardous cir-

cumstances which are not adequately addressed by existing requirements.

[CGD 84-069, 61 FR 25291, May 20, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 52814, Oct. 1, 1998; USCG 1999-5151, 64 FR 67182, Dec. 1, 1999]

#### § 108.503 Relationship to international standards.

For the purposes of this part, any unit carrying a valid IMO MODU Safety Certificate, including a listing of lifesaving equipment as required by the 1989 IMO MODU Code, is considered to have met the requirements of this subpart if, in addition to the requirements of the 1989 IMO MODU Code, it meets the following requirements:

(a) Each new lifeboat and launching appliance may be of aluminum construction only if its stowage location is protected with a water spray system in accordance with § 108.550(d) of this chapter.

(b) Each lifejacket, immersion suit, and emergency position indicating radiobeacon (EPIRB) must be marked with the unit's name in accordance with §§ 108.649 and 108.650.

(c) Inflatable lifejackets, if carried, must be of the same or similar design as required by § 108.580(b).

(d) Containers for lifejackets, immersion suits, and anti-exposure suits must be marked as specified in § 108.649(g).

(e) Each liferaft must be arranged to permit it to drop into the water from the deck on which it is stowed as required in § 108.530(c)(3).

(f) Survival craft must be arranged to allow safe disembarkation onto the unit after a drill in accordance with § 108.540(f).

(g) The requirements for guarding of falls in §§ 108.553 (d) and (f) must be met.

(h) The winch drum requirements described in § 108.553(e) must be met for all survival craft winches, not just multiple drum winches.

(i) The maximum lowering speed requirements from §§ 108.553 (h) and (i) must be met.

(j) An auxiliary line must be kept with each line-throwing appliance in accordance with § 108.597(c)(2).

**§ 108.510**

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(k) Immersion suits are required on all units, except those operating between the 32 degrees north and 32 degrees south latitude in accordance with §108.580(c).

(1) All abandonment drills conducted on units carrying immersion suits must include immersion suits.

**§ 108.510 Application.**

(a) For the purposes of this subpart—

(1) *Similar stage of construction* means the stage at which—

(i) Construction identifiable with a specific unit begins; and

(ii) Assembly of that unit comprising at least 50 metric tons (55.1 U.S. tons) or 1 percent of the estimated mass of all structural material, whichever is less, has been achieved.

(2) *Unit constructed* means a unit, the keel of which is laid or which is at a similar stage of construction.

(b) Subject to §108.515, each unit constructed before October 1, 1996, must meet the requirements of this subpart, except for the number, type, and arrangement of lifeboats (including survival capsules), lifeboat davits, winches, inflatable liferafts, liferaft launching equipment, and rescue boats.

(c)(1) If a District Commander determines that the overall safety of the persons on board a unit will not be significantly reduced, the District Commander may grant an exemption from compliance with a provision of this part to a specific unit for a specified geographic area within the boundaries of the Coast Guard District. This exemption may be limited to certain periods of the year.

(2) Requests for exemption under this paragraph must be in writing to the OCMI for transmission to the District Commander in the area in which the unit is in service or will be in service.

(3) If the exemption is granted by the District Commander, the OCMI will endorse the unit's Certificate of Inspection with a statement describing the exemption.

**§ 108.515 Requirements for units built before October 1, 1996.**

(a) Units which were constructed prior to October 1, 1996, must—

(1) By October 1, 1997, have either—

(i) Lifeboats and liferafts that meet §108.525; or

(ii) Totally enclosed fire-protected lifeboats of sufficient capacity to accommodate 100 percent of the persons permitted on board, plus additional totally enclosed lifeboats or davit-launched liferafts of sufficient capacity to accommodate 100 percent of the persons permitted on board the unit. The following exceptions apply:

(A) An open lifeboat may be used instead of davit-launched liferafts as long as it is in good working order. An open lifeboat requiring extensive repairs must be replaced with either a totally enclosed fire-protected lifeboat, or davit-launched liferafts.

(B) A submersible unit constructed before January 3, 1979, may continue to use the lifesaving arrangements described on the units Certificate of Inspection in effect on October 1, 1996.

(2) By October 1, 1997, fit retro-reflective material on all floating appliances, lifejackets, and immersion suits.

(3) Except for the requirements in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section, units may retain the arrangement of lifesaving appliances previously required and approved for the unit, as long as the arrangement or appliance is maintained in good condition to the satisfaction of the OCMI.

(b) When any lifesaving appliance or arrangement on a unit subject to this part is replaced, or when the unit undergoes repairs, alterations or modifications of a major character involving replacement of, or any addition to, the existing lifesaving appliances or arrangements, each new lifesaving appliance and arrangement must meet the requirements of this part, unless the OCMI determines that the unit cannot accommodate the new appliance or arrangement, except that—

(1) A survival craft is not required to meet the requirements of this part if it is replaced without replacing its davit and winch; and

(2) A davit and its winch are not required to meet the requirements of this part if one or both are replaced without replacing the survival craft.