

(b) An embarkation ladder, approved in accordance with §160.017 in subchapter Q of this chapter, or other standard specified by the Commandant, must be at each embarkation station if the distance from the embarkation deck to the vessel's lightest operating waterline is more than 3,050 millimeters (10 feet).

[CGD 85-080, 61 FR 911, Jan. 10, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 51350, Sept. 30, 1997; 62 FR 64305, Dec. 5, 1997]

§ 117.175 Survival craft equipment.

(a) *General.* Each item of survival craft equipment must be of good quality, and efficient for the purpose it is intended to serve. Unless otherwise stated in this section, each item of equipment carried, whether required under this section or not, must be secured by lashings, stored in lockers, compartments, brackets, or have equivalent mounting or storage arrangements that do not:

- (1) Reduce survival craft capacity;
- (2) Reduce space available to the occupants;
- (3) Interfere with launching, recovery, or rescue operations; or
- (4) Adversely affect seaworthiness of the survival craft.

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

- (1) Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) B Pack; or
- (2) SOLAS A Pack.

(c) *Inflatable buoyant apparatus.* Each inflatable buoyant apparatus must be equipped in accordance with the manufacturer's approved servicing manual.

(d) *Life floats.* Each life float must be fitted with a lifeline, pendants, two paddles, a painter, and a light.

(e) *Buoyant apparatus.* Each buoyant apparatus must be fitted with a lifeline, pendants, a painter, and a light.

(f) *Equipment specifications for life floats and buoyant apparatus.* The equipment required for lifefloats and buoyant apparatus must meet the following specifications:

- (1) *Lifeline and pendants.* The lifeline and pendants must be as furnished by the manufacturer with the approved life float or buoyant apparatus. Replacement lifelines and pendants must

meet the requirements in §160.010 in subchapter Q of this chapter, or other standard specified by the Commandant.

(2) *Paddle.* Each paddle must be of at least 1,220 millimeters (4 feet) in length, lashed to the life float to which they belong, and buoyant.

(3) *Painter.* The painter must:

(i) Be of at least 30.5 meters (100 feet) in length, but not less than three times the distance between the deck where the life float or buoyant apparatus it serves is stowed and the lightship waterline of the vessel;

(ii) Have a breaking strength of at least 680 kilograms (1,500 pounds), except that if the capacity of the life float or buoyant apparatus is 50 persons or more, the breaking strength must be at least 1,360 kilograms (3,000 pounds);

(iii) Be of a dark color if synthetic, or of a type certified to be resistant to deterioration from ultraviolet light; and

(iv) Be stowed in such a way that it runs out freely when the life float or buoyant apparatus floats away from a sinking vessel.

(4) *Light.* The light must be a floating waterlight approved under approval series 161.010 or a standard specified by the Commandant. The floating waterlight must be attached around the body of the life float or buoyant apparatus by a 10 mm (3/8 inch) lanyard, resistant to deterioration from ultraviolet light, and at least 5.5 meters (18 feet) in length.

(g) *Other survival craft.* If survival craft other than inflatable liferafts, life floats, inflatable buoyant apparatus, and buoyant apparatus are carried on the vessel, such as lifeboats or rigid liferafts, they must be installed, arranged, and equipped as required in subchapter H (Passenger Vessels) of this chapter for passenger vessels on the same route.

[CGD 85-080, 61 FR 911, Jan. 10, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 51351, Sept. 30, 1997; 62 FR 64305, Dec. 5, 1997]

Subpart E—Number and Type of Survival Craft

§ 117.200 Survival craft—general.

(a) Each survival craft required on a vessel by this part must meet one of the following:

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(1) For an inflatable liferaft—Approved under approval series 160.151 or other standard specified by the Commandant, with the applicable equipment pack, as determined by the cognizant OCMI. Each inflatable liferaft required on a vessel by this part must have a capacity of 6 persons or more. Inflatable liferafts may be substituted for inflatable buoyant apparatus or life floats required under this section.

(2) For a life float—Approved under approval series 160.027 or other standard specified by the Commandant. Buoyant apparatus may be used to meet requirements for life floats if the buoyant apparatus was installed on board the vessel on or before March 11, 1996, and if the buoyant apparatus remains in good and serviceable condition.

(3) For an inflatable buoyant apparatus—Approved under approval series 160.010 or other standard specified by the Commandant. Inflatable buoyant

apparatus may be substituted for life floats required under this section.

(4) For a buoyant apparatus—Approved under approval series 160.010 or other standard specified by the Commandant. An existing buoyant apparatus may not be used to satisfy the requirements for life floats on existing vessels wishing to upgrade the total number of passengers carried on an oceans route.

(b) If the vessel carries a small boat or boats, the capacity of these boats may be counted toward the life float capacity required by this subpart. Such boats must meet the requirements for safe loading and flotation in 33 CFR Part 183, and must meet the stowage, launching and equipment requirements in this part for the survival craft they replace.

(c) A summary of survival craft requirements is provided in Table 117.200(c).

TABLE 117.200(c)

Route	Survival Craft Required
Oceans	(a) cold water ¹ —100% ILR ² —§ 117.202(a) (b) warm water ³ (i) w/overnight accommodations—100% IBA ⁵ —§ 117.204(c) (ii) w/o overnight accommodations—67% IBA ⁴ —§ 117.202(e)
Coastwise	(a) w/overnight accommodations—100% IBA ⁵ —§ 117.204(a) (b) w/o overnight accommodations (i) cold water—67% IBA—§ 117.204(c)(1) (ii) warm water—100% LF—§ 117.204(c)(2) (iii) within three miles of shore w/float free 406 MHz EPIRB 50% LF—§ 117.204(d)
Limited coastwise (Not more than 20 miles from a harbor of safe refuge).	(a) w/overnight accommodations—100% IBA ⁵ —§ 117.205(a) (b) w/o overnight accommodations (i) cold water—67% IBA ⁶ —§ 117.205(a) (ii) warm water—50% LF—§ 117.205(c) (iii) within three miles of shore w/float free 406 MHz EPIRB (A) cold water—50% LF—§ 117.205(a) (B) warm water—NONE—§ 117.205(d)
Great Lakes	(a) same as limited coastwise (a) & (b)—§ 117.206(a) (b) within one mile of shore—NONE ⁷ —§ 117.206(b)
Lakes, bays, and sounds ^{8,9}	(a) w/overnight accommodations—67% IBA ⁵ —§ 117.207(a) (b) w/o overnight accommodations (i) cold water—100% LF—§ 117.207(b)(1) & (c)(1) (ii) warm water—50% LF—§ 117.207(b)(2) & (c)(2) (iii) within one mile of shore—NONE—§ 117.207(d)
Rivers ^{9,10}	(a) cold water (i) 50% LF—§ 117.208(a) (ii) within one mile of shore—NONE—§ 117.208(c) (b) Warm water—NONE—§ 117.208(b)

Abbreviations used:
 ILR = Inflatable liferaft
 IBA = Inflatable Buoyant apparatus
 LF = Life Float. As allowed by § 117.15(c), any buoyant apparatus in use on an existing vessel on March 11, 1996, may be used to meet the requirements for LF as long as the buoyant apparatus is in good and serviceable condition.

Footnotes:
¹ Cold water means the cognizant OCMI has determined the monthly mean low temperature of the water is ≤ 15° C (59° F)
² Vessels operating less than 50 miles from shore may carry 100% IBA in lieu of ILR—§ 117.202(b)
³ Warm water means the cognizant OCMI has determined the monthly mean low temperature of the water is > 15° C (59° F)
⁴ Vessels operating in warm water may substitute 100% LF in lieu of 67% IBA—§ 117.202(c)
⁵ IBA for total number of overnight passengers allowed. Additional primary lifesaving may be required—§ 117.204(b), § 117.205(a), § 117.206(a), and § 117.207(b)

- ⁶ Certain vessel operations may substitute 100% LF in lieu of IBA—§ 117.205(b)
⁷ OCMI may reduce primary lifesaving for seasonal or ferry type operations on the Great Lakes—§ 117.206(b)
⁸ Shallow water exception—§ 117.207(e).
⁹ OCMI may reduce survival craft requirements based upon the route, communications schedule, and participation in VTS—§ 117.207(f) and § 117.208(e).
¹⁰ Shallow water exception—§ 117.208(d)

[CGD 85-080, 61 FR 911, Jan. 10, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 51351, Sept. 30, 1997; 62 FR 64305, Dec. 5, 1997]

§ 117.202 Survival craft—vessels operating on oceans routes.

(a) Except as allowed by paragraph (b) of this section, each vessel certificated to operate on an oceans route in cold water must be provided with inflatable liferafts of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of persons permitted on board.

(b) Each vessel certificated to operate on an oceans route not more than 50 nautical miles offshore in cold water must be provided with inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of persons permitted on board.

(c) Each vessel with overnight accommodations certificated to operate on an oceans route in warm water must be provided with inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of overnight persons permitted on board.

(d) Where the total number of persons allowed on the COI exceeds the total number of overnight persons allowed, the survival craft requirements contained in paragraph (e) of this section apply when not engaged in an overnight voyage.

(e) Each vessel certificated to operate on an oceans route in warm water must be provided with either:

(i) Inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 67% of the total number of persons permitted on board; or

(ii) Life floats of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of persons permitted on board.

§ 117.204 Survival craft—vessels operating on coastwise routes.

(a) Each vessel with overnight accommodations certificated to operate on a coastwise route must be provided

with inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of overnight persons permitted on board.

(b) Where the total number of persons allowed on the COI exceeds the total number of overnight persons allowed, the following survival craft requirements apply when not engaged in an overnight voyage:

(1) Except as allowed by paragraph (d) of this section, if operated in cold water, be provided with inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 67% of the total number of persons permitted on board; or

(2) Except as allowed by paragraph (d) of this section, if operated in warm water, be provided with life floats of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of persons permitted on board.

(c) Each vessel without overnight accommodations certificated to operate on a coastwise route, must:

(1) Except as allowed by paragraph (d) of this section, if operated in cold water, be provided with inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 67% of the total number of persons permitted on board; or

(2) Except as allowed by paragraph (d) of this section, if operated in warm water, be provided with life floats of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of persons permitted on board.

(d) Each vessel certificated to operate on a coastwise route within three miles of land, and equipped with an FCC type accepted Category 1 406 MHz EPIRB installed to float free and automatically activate, may be provided with life floats of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 50% of the total number of persons permitted on board.