§ 118.115  
**Applicability; preemptive effect.**

(a) Except as otherwise required by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, an existing vessel must comply with the fire protection equipment regulations applicable to the vessel on March 10, 1996, or, as an alternative, the vessel may comply with the regulation in this part.

(b) An existing vessel with a hull, or a machinery space boundary bulkhead or deck, composed of wood or fiber reinforced plastic, or sheathed on the interior in fiber reinforced plastic, must comply with the requirements of §118.400 of this part on or before March 11, 1999.

(c) New installations of fire protection equipment on an existing vessel, which are completed to the satisfaction of the cognizant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) on or after March 11, 1996, must comply with the regulations of this part on or before March 11, 1999.

(d) The regulations in this part have preemptive effect over State or local regulations in the same field.

§ 118.120  
**Equipment installed but not required.**

Fire extinguishing and detecting equipment installed on a vessel in excess of the requirements of §§118.400 and 118.500 of this part must be designed, constructed, installed and maintained in a manner acceptable to the Commandant.

Subpart B [Reserved]