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(i) Assembling them and seeing that they are properly dressed and have donned their immersion suits and life-jackets; and

(ii) Directing them to their appointed stations.

§ 131.360 Responsibilities of licensed or certificated individuals.

Nothing in the emergency instructions or in any station bill required by this subpart exempts any licensed or certificated individual from the exercise of good judgment in an emergency.

Subpart D—Sufficiency and Supervision of Crew of Survival Craft

§ 131.410 Certificate of proficiency.

A merchant mariner credential or merchant mariner’s document with an endorsement of lifeboatman or another inclusive rating under part 12 of this title is evidence of training in survival craft and serves as a certificate of proficiency. For this subpart, a “certificated” person is a person holding a merchant mariner credential or merchant mariner’s document with such an endorsement.


§ 131.420 Manning and supervision.

(a) There must be enough trained persons aboard each survival craft to muster and assist untrained persons.

(b) Except as permitted by paragraph (c)(2) of this section, there must be enough deck officers, able seamen, or other certificated persons aboard each survival craft to manage the launching and handling of the survival craft.

(c) One person must be placed in charge of each survival craft to be used.

(1) Except as permitted by paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the person in command must be a deck officer, able seaman, or other certificated person.

(2) Considering the nature of the voyage, the number of persons permitted aboard, and the characteristics of the vessel, including gross tonnage, the cognizant OCMI may permit persons practiced in the handling of liferafts to be placed in charge of liferafts instead of persons required under paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(3) A deck officer, able seaman, or other certificated person shall serve as second-in-command for each lifeboat either—

(i) Carried on a vessel in ocean service; or

(ii) Permitted to carry more than 40 persons.

(d) The person in charge and the second-in-command of each survival craft shall have a list of crew members and offshore workers assigned to the craft and shall see that the crew members are acquainted with their duties.

(e) Each motorized survival craft must have assigned a person capable of operating the engine and carrying out minor adjustments.

(f) The master shall ensure that the persons required under paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section are equitably distributed among the vessel’s survival crafts.

Subpart E—Tests, Drills, and Inspections

§ 131.505 Steering gear, whistle, and means of communication.

(a) On each vessel expected to be away from shore for more than 48 hours, the master shall examine and test the steering gear, the whistle, and the means of communication between the pilothouse and the engine room 12 or fewer hours before departure. On every other vessel, the master shall do the same at least once a week.

(b) The date of each test and examination and the condition of the equipment must be noted in the vessel’s logbook.

§ 131.510 Draft and loadline markings.

(a) The master of each vessel on an ocean or coastwise voyage shall enter in the vessel’s logbook the drafts of the vessel, forward and aft, when leaving port.

(b) The master of each vessel subject to the requirements of subchapter E of this chapter shall, upon departure from port on an ocean or coastwise voyage, enter in the vessel’s logbook a statement of the position of the loadline markings, port and starboard, relative
§ 131.513 Verification of compliance with applicable stability requirements.

(a) After loading but before departure, and at other times necessary to assure the safety of the vessel, the master shall verify that the vessel complies with requirements in its trim-and-stability book, stability letter, Certificate of Inspection, and Loadline Certificate, whichever apply, and then enter a statement of the verification in the log book. The vessel may not leave port until it is in compliance with these requirements.

(b) When determining compliance with applicable stability requirements, the master shall ascertain the vessel’s draft, trim, and stability as necessary; and any stability calculations made in support of the determination must remain aboard the vessel for the duration of the voyage.

§ 131.515 Periodic sanitary inspections.

(a) The master shall make periodic inspections of the quarters, toilet and washing spaces, serving pantries, galleys, and the like, to ensure that those spaces are maintained in a sanitary condition.

(b) The master shall enter in the vessel’s logbook the results of these inspections.

§ 131.520 Hatches and other openings.

Before any vessel leaves protected waters, the master shall ensure that the vessel’s exposed cargo hatches and other openings in the hull are closed; made properly watertight by the use of tarpaulins, gaskets, or similar devices; and properly secured for sea.

§ 131.525 Emergency lighting and power.

(a) The master of each vessel shall ensure that the emergency lighting and power systems are tested at least once each week that the vessel is operated, to verify that they work.

(b) The master shall ensure that emergency generators driven by internal-combustion engines run under load for at least 2 hours at least once each month that the vessel is operated.

(c) The master shall ensure that storage batteries driving fitted systems for emergency lighting and power are tested at least once each 6 months that the vessel is operated, to demonstrate the ability of the batteries to supply the emergency loads for the period specified by Table 112.05–5(a) of this chapter for cargo vessels.

(d) The date of each test and the condition and performance of the apparatus must be noted in the vessel’s logbook.

§ 131.530 Abandon-ship training and drills.

(a) Material for abandon-ship training must be aboard each vessel. The material must consist of a manual of one or more volumes, or audiovisual training aids, or both.

(1) The material must contain instructions and information about the lifesaving appliances aboard the vessel and about the best methods of survival. Any manual must be written in easily understood terms, illustrated wherever possible.

(2) If a manual is used, there must be a copy in each messroom and recreation room for crew members or in each stateroom for them. If audiovisual aids are used, they must be incorporated in the training sessions aboard under paragraph (d) of this section.

(3) The material must explain the—

(i) Method of donning immersion suits and lifejackets carried aboard;
(ii) Mustering at assigned stations;
(iii) Proper boarding, launching, and clearing of survival craft and rescue boats;
(iv) Method of launching survival craft by people within them;
(v) Method of releasing survival craft from launching-appliances;
(vi) Use of devices for protecting survival craft in launching-areas, where appropriate;
(vii) Illumination of launching-areas;
(viii) Use of each item of survival equipment;