§ 25.25–7 Approved lifebuoys. Lifebuoys must be approved under approval series 160.050 or 160.150, except that a lifebuoy approved under former 46 CFR 160.009 prior to May 9, 1979 (see 46 CFR chapter I, revised as of October 1, 1979), may be used as long as it is in good and serviceable condition.

(c)(1) Each vessel not carrying passengers for hire may substitute an immersion suit approved under 46 CFR 160.171 for a wearable PFD required under paragraphs (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section.

(2) On each vessel, regardless of length and regardless of whether carrying passengers for hire, an approved commercial hybrid PFD approved under approval series 160.077, may be substituted for a PFD approved under approval series 160.055, 160.155, or 160.176, if it is—

(i) Used in accordance with the conditions marked on the PFD and in the owner’s manual; and

(ii) Labeled for use on commercial vessels.

§ 25.25–7 Marking.

The lifesaving equipment required by this subpart must be legibly marked as specified in subchapter Q of this chapter.

§ 25.25–9 Storage.

(a) The lifesaving equipment designed to be worn required in § 25.25–5 (b), (c) and (e) must be readily accessible.

(b) Lifesaving equipment designed to be thrown required in § 25.25–5(d) must be immediately available.


a. In paragraph (a), remove the text “§ 25.25–5 (b), (c) and (e)” and add, in its place, the text “§ 25.25–5(b) and (c)”; and

b. In paragraph (b), remove the text “§ 25.25–5(d)” and add, in its place, the text “§ 25.25–5(b)”; and

  c. Add a paragraph (c).

For the convenience of the user, the added and revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 25.25–9 Storage.

* * * * *

(c) For a barge to which this subpart applies, the wearable lifesaving equipment specified in § 25.25–5 need not be stored on board the barge if the barge’s operator stores it elsewhere, and ensures that each individual dons the equipment or a work vest approved under 46 CFR 160.053 before boarding the barge and keeps it on for as long as the individual remains on board and at risk of falling overboard.

§ 25.25–11 Condition.

The lifesaving equipment required by this subpart must be in serviceable condition.

§ 25.25–13 Personal flotation device lights.

(a) This section applies to vessels described in § 25.25–1 that engage in ocean, coastwise, or Great Lakes voyages.

(b) Each immersion suit carried in accordance with § 25.25–5(e), each life preserver, each marine buoyant device intended to be worn, and each buoyant vest must have a personal flotation device light that is approved under subpart 161.012 of this chapter.

(c) Each personal flotation device light required by this section must be securely attached to the front shoulder area of the immersion suit, life preserver, or other personal flotation device.

(d) If a personal flotation device light has a non-replaceable power source, the light must be replaced on or before the expiration date of the power source. If the light has a replaceable power source, the power source must be replaced on or before its expiration date and the light must be replaced when it is no longer serviceable.


§ 25.25–15 Retroreflective material for personal flotation devices.

(a) Each life preserver, each marine buoyant device intended to be worn, and each buoyant vest carried on a vessel must have Type I retroreflective material that is approved under subpart 164.018 of this chapter.

(b) Each item required to have retroreflective material must have at least 200 sq. cm (31 sq. in.) of material attached to its front side, at least 200 sq. cm of material on its back side, and, if the item is reversible, at least 200 sq. cm of material on each of its reversible sides. The material attached