§ 160.051–9 Design and performance of A and B inflatable liferafts.

To obtain Coast Guard approval, each A and B inflatable liferaft must comply with the requirements in subpart 160.151, with the following exceptions:

(a) Capacity (IMO LSA Code chapter IV/4.1.2.1). The carrying capacity must be not less than four persons.

(b) Markings (IMO LSA Code, chapter IV/4.2.6.3). The type of equipment pack must be identified as “A” or “B”, respectively, instead of “SOLAS A” or “SOLAS B”. No “SOLAS” markings may appear on the container.


§ 160.051–11 Equipment required for Coastal Service inflatable liferafts.

In lieu of the equipment specified in § 160.151–21, the following equipment must be provided with a Coastal Service inflatable liferaft:

(a) Rescue quoit and heaving line. One rescue quoit and a heaving line as described in § 160.151–21(a).

(b) Knife. One knife, of a type designed to minimize the chance of damage to the inflatable liferaft and secured with a lanyard.

(c) Bailie. One bailie as described in § 160.151–21(c).

(d) Sponge. One sponge as described in § 160.151–21(d).

(e) Sea anchor. One sea anchor as described in § 160.151–21(e).

(f) Paddles. Two paddles of the same size and type as used to pass the maneuverability test in paragraph 1/5.10 of IMO Revised recommendation on testing (incorporated by reference, see § 160.051–5 of this subpart).

(g) Whistle. One whistle as described in § 160.151–21(1) of this part.

(h) Flashlight. One flashlight with spare batteries as described in § 160.151–21(m).

(i) Signalling mirror. One signalling mirror as described in § 160.151–21(o).

(j) Survival instructions. Instructions on how to survive as described in § 160.151–21(v).

(k) Instructions for immediate action. Instructions for immediate action as described in § 160.151–21(w).

Subpart 160.052—Specification for a Buoyant Vest, Unicellular Plastic Foam, Adult and Child

§ 160.052–1 Incorporation by reference.

(a) Specifications and Standards. This subpart makes reference to the following documents.

(1) [Reserved]

(2) Military specification: MIL-W-530F—Webbing, Textile, Cotton, General Purpose, Natural and in Colors.

(3) Federal Standards:

No. 191—Textile Test Methods.

No. 751A—Stitches, Seams, and Stitching.

(4) Coast Guard specifications:

160.055—Life Preservers, Unicellular Plastic Foam, Adult and Child.

160.057—Plastic Foam, Unicellular, Buoyant Sheet and Molded Shapes.

(b) Plans. The following plans, of the issue in effect on the date buoyant vests are manufactured, form a part of this subpart:

Dwg. No. 160.052–1:

Sheet 1—Cutting Pattern and General Arrangement, Model AP.

Sheet 2—Cutting Pattern and General Arrangement, Model CPM.

Sheet 3—Cutting Pattern and General Arrangement, Model CPS.

Sheet 4—Insert Patterns.

(c) Copies on file. The manufacturer shall keep a copy of each specification and plan required by this section on file together with the certificate of approval. Plans and specifications may be obtained as follows:

(1) The Coast Guard plans and specifications may be obtained upon request from the Commandant (CG-ENG), Attn: Office of Design and Engineering Systems, U.S. Coast Guard Stop 7509, 2703
§ 160.052–2 Size and model.

(a) A standard buoyant vest is manufactured in accordance with a plan specified in §160.052–1(b) and is:

(1) Model AP, adult (for persons over 90 pounds);

(2) Model CPM, child, medium (for persons weighing from 50 to 90 pounds);

(3) Model CPS, child, small (for persons weighing less than 50 pounds).

(b) A nonstandard buoyant vest is:

(1) Manufactured in accordance with the manufacturer’s approved plan;

(2) Equivalent in performance to the standard buoyant vest; and

(3) Assigned a model designation by the manufacturer for the following sizes:

(i) Adult (for persons weighing over 90 pounds);

(ii) Child, medium (for persons weighing from 50 to 90 pounds);

(iii) Child, small (for persons weighing less than 50 pounds).


(a) General. All components used in the construction of buoyant vests must meet the applicable requirements of subpart 164.019 of this chapter. The requirements for materials specified in this section are minimum requirements, and consideration will be given to the use of alternate materials in lieu of those specified. Detailed technical data and samples of all proposed alternate materials shall be submitted for approval before those materials are incorporated in the finished product.

(b) Unicellular plastic foam. The unicellular plastic foam shall be all new material complying with the requirements of specification Subpart 164.015 of this subchapter for Type A or B foam.

(c) Envelope. The buoyant vest envelope, or cover, shall be made from 39”, 2.85 cotton jeans cloth, with a thread count of approximately 96 × 64. The finished goods shall weigh not less than 4.2 ounces per square yard, shall have thread count of not less than 94 × 60, and shall have a breaking strength of not less than 85 pounds in the warp and 50 pounds in the filling. Other cotton fabrics having a weight and breaking strength not less than the above will be acceptable. There are no restrictions as to color, but the fastness of the color to laundering, water, crocking, and light shall be rated “good” when tested in accordance with Federal Test Method Standard No. 191, Methods 5610, 5630, 5650, and 5660.

(d) Tie tapes and body strap loops. The tie tapes and body strap loops for both adult and child sizes must be ¾-inch cotton webbing meeting the requirements of military specification MIL-T-43566 (Class I) for Type I webbing.

(d–1) Body straps. The complete body strap assembly, including hardware, must have a minimum breaking strength of 150 pounds for an adult size and 115 pounds for a child size. The specifications for the webbing are as follows:

(1) For an adult size vest, the webbing must be 1 inch;

(2) For a child size vest, the webbing must be three-quarter inch and meet the requirements of military specification MIL-W-530 for Type IIa webbing.

(e) [Reserved]

(f) Thread. Each thread must meet the requirements of subpart 164.023 of