



16711
22 May 1997

From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
To: Distribution

Subj: ROUTE RESTRICTIONS ON LIFTBOATS OPERATING IN THE GULF OF
MEXICO

Ref: (a) Navigation and Inspection Circular No. 8-91

1. To provide consistency throughout the Eighth Coast Guard District, route restrictions placed on the Certificate of Inspection of a liftboat should be taken directly from the vessel's stability letter. In most cases, the words "as defined in 46 CFR Part 7" should follow the words "Boundary Line".

2. Reference (a) provides guidance on the route restrictions for liftboats operating both inside and outside the Boundary Line. After reviewing pertinent stability calculations, the Marine Safety Center (MSC) issues a stability letter which specifies route restrictions in 3 categories:

- (a) Unrestricted operations - When all provisions of 46 CFR 174, Subpart C are met, within the full range of leg positions encountered while jacking. The stability letter will define the area of operation approved.
- (b) Restricted operations beyond the Boundary Line - restricted to service within twelve (12) hours of a harbor of safe refuge or location where the vessel may elevate to survive 100 knots of wind.
- (c) Restricted operations inside the Boundary Line - restricted to service inside the Boundary Line, within eight (8) hours of a harbor of safe refuge or location where the vessel may elevate to survive 100 knots of wind.

3. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to LCDR Bill Daughdrill or CW04 Gary Busby of my staff at (504) 589-6271.

Wayne D. Gusman
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By direction

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