



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



CG-5431
Office of Vessel Activities
Domestic Compliance Division

MI Notice 05-11
October 13, 2011

Marine Inspection Notice

USCG LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT INSPECTION AND SOLAS HARMONIZATION

On October 11, 2011, the Coast Guard published an Interim Final Rule (IFR) on Lifesaving Equipment: Production Testing and Harmonization with International Standards. See the below link for a copy of the IFR:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-25035.pdf>

As noted in this rule, after November 10, 2011, the USCG will no longer perform *production* testing of the lifesaving equipment affected by this rule (lifeboats, rescue boats, davits, winches, release hooks, and automatic disengaging devices). *Production* testing of this equipment, as well as the construction of prototype lifeboats and rescue boats, must be supervised by an independent laboratory accepted by the Coast Guard in accordance with 46 CFR 159.010. A list of accepted laboratories for each approval series can be found on the Coast Guard Marine Information Exchange (CGMIX) website <http://cgmix.uscg.mil/EQLabs/EqLabsSearch.aspx>.

***** Manufacturers of USCG approved lifesaving equipment must select an accepted independent laboratory to witness any production testing that occurs after November 10, 2011 and submit documentation of an agreement with the selected laboratory to USCG Headquarters (CG-5214). *****

The revised regulatory text also clarifies that pre-approval plan review and witnessing of *prototype* testing may be performed by an independent laboratory, only if authorized by the Commandant. The scope of each independent laboratory's authorization will be reflected on CGMIX. In the absence of an authorized independent laboratory, Coast Guard Marine Inspectors are required to witness completed *prototype* testing.

Type approval requests and associated inquiries may be directed to TypeApproval@uscg.mil.

Details regarding USCG approved equipment can be found at the Coast Guard Marine Information Exchange (CGMIX) at <http://cgmix.uscg.mil>.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Office of Vessel Activities, Domestic Compliance Division (CG-5431) at CG5431@uscg.mil or (202) 372-1224.