



# Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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## Notice of Recommended Interim Voluntary Guidance on Lifesaving and Fire-fighting Equipment for Offshore Facilities Published

The Coast Guard announced today the publication of a Notice of Recommended Interim Voluntary Guidance related to lifesaving and fire-fighting equipment, training and drills onboard offshore facilities and mobile offshore drilling units (MODUs) operating on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The safety improvements recommended in this Notice stem from the Coast Guard's continuing investigation and analysis of the explosion, fire, and sinking of the MODU DEEPWATER HORIZON operating in the Macondo field in Mississippi Canyon Block 252 of the U.S. OCS on April 20, 2010.

The Notice urges operators of MODUs and manned offshore facilities on the U.S. OCS to consider voluntary compliance with five specific recommendations, pending future regulatory actions. The single fire-fighting recommendation is for installation of fixed deluge systems or water monitors to protect high hazard drill floor areas. The lifesaving recommendations are that any new or replacement lifeboats have seating arrangements and carrying capacity to suit the physical build of offshore workers; carriage of dedicated rescue boats instead of lifeboats with dual certification as rescue boats; carriage of excess liferafts for training purposes, to facilitate practicing launching of davit-launched liferafts during drills; and performance of quarterly man-overboard drills.

The Notice also solicits public comment on the recommended guidance that will be considered by the Coast Guard in any future rulemakings.

The Notice and related materials may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov>; docket number: USCG-2012-0848.

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