

Subpart 160.072—Distress Signals for Boats, Orange Flag

SOURCE: CGD 76-183a, 44 FR 73054, Dec. 17, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 160.072-1 Applicability.

- (a) This subpart establishes standards for distress flags for boats.
- (b) [Reserved]

§ 160.072-3 General performance requirements.

- (a) Each flag must:
 - (1) Be a square or rectangle at least 90 cm (36 inches) wide and at least 90 cm (36 inches) long. If the flag is a rectangle, the shorter side cannot be less than $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the longer side;
 - (2) Have no less than 70% of the total area colored a bright red-orange color;
 - (3) Display a black disc and a black square on the red-orange background on both sides arranged as follows:
 - (i) The diameter of the disc and the length of one side of the square shall be equal, and shall each be $\frac{1}{3}$ of the length of the longest side of the flag, or 30 cm (12 inches), whichever is greater.
 - (ii) The disc and square must be centered on one axis of the flag parallel to the longest side of the flag as shown in Figure 160.072-3. If the flag is a square, the axis may be parallel to any side.

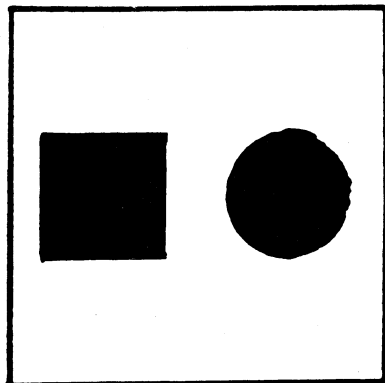


FIGURE 160.072-3

- (iii) The disc and square shall be separated by a distance of $\frac{1}{6}$ the length of the longest side of the flag or 15 cm (6 inches), whichever is greater.

- (4) Be capable of passing the accelerated weathering test of § 160.072-5;

- (5) Have reinforced corners, each with a grommet; and,

- (6) Be packaged with 4 pieces of line, with a tensile strength of at least 225 N (Newtons) (50 lbs) no less than 30 cm (12 inches) long, capable of passing through the grommets freely.

- (b) [Reserved]

§ 160.072-5 Accelerated weathering test.

- (a) Condition the flag, folded to $\frac{1}{16}$ th its size or as packaged, whichever is smaller, by submersion in 5% by weight sodium chloride solution for 2 hours followed immediately by storage at 95% (± 5) relative humidity and 40 °C (± 3) (100 °F ± 5) for at least 15 days.

- (b) Unfold and suspend flag by the lines provided, secured through each grommet.

- (c) Subject the flag to alternate 3 minute cycles of 5% by weight sodium chloride solution at 55 degrees (± 5) °C and air blasts of 40 knots at 55 degrees (± 5) °C, perpendicular to and over the entire surface of one side of the flag, without interruption for a period of not less than 24 hours.

- (d) The flag fails the accelerated weathering test if

- (1) After conditioning, the flag cannot be unfolded without damage,

- (2) There is any tearing,

- (3) The flag does not retain its bright red/orange color,

- (4) The disc and square images no longer meet the requirements of § 160.072-3(a)(3) or,

- (5) There is any visible rot over more than 3% of the flag's surface.

§ 160.072-7 Manufacturer certification and labeling.

- (a) Each distress flag intended as a Day Visual Distress Signal required by 33 CFR Part 175 must be certified by the manufacturer as complying with the requirements of this subpart.

- (b) Each distress flag must be legibly and indelibly marked with:

- (1) The manufacturer's name; and

- (2) The following words—

“Day Visual Distress Signal for Boats. Complies with U.S. Coast Guard Requirements in 46 CFR 160.072. For Emergency Use Only”.