

**§ 28.130**

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craft used in their place, must be kept readily accessible for launching or be stowed so as to float free in the event the vessel sinks.

(c) Each hydrostatic release unit used in a float-free arrangement must be approved under part 160, subpart 160.062 of this chapter.

(d) Each float-free link used with a buoyant apparatus or with a life float must be certified to meet part 160, subpart 160.073 of this chapter.

**§ 28.130 Survival craft equipment.**

(a) *General.* Each item of survival craft equipment must be of good quality, effective for the purpose it is intended to serve, and secured to the craft.

(b) *Inflatable liferafts.* Each inflatable liferaft must have one of the following equipment packs as shown by the markings on its container:

- (1) Coastal Service;
- (2) SOLAS B Pack (formerly “Limited Service”); or
- (3) SOLAS A Pack (formerly “Ocean Service”).

(c) Each life float and buoyant apparatus must be fitted with a lifeline, pendants, a painter, and a floating electric water light approved under part 161 subpart 161.010 of this chapter.

(d) *Other survival craft.* A vessel must not carry survival craft other than in-

flatable liferafts, life floats, inflatable buoyant apparatus, or buoyant apparatus, such as lifeboats or rigid liferafts, unless the survival craft and launching equipment comply with the requirements for installation, arrangement, equipment, and maintenance contained in 46 CFR part 199.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991, as amended by CGD 84-069, 63 FR 52813, Oct. 1, 1998]

**§ 28.135 Lifesaving equipment markings.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, lifesaving equipment carried aboard a vessel pursuant to the requirements of this subpart or part 25, subpart 25.25 of this chapter must be marked as specified in table 28.135.

(b) Lettering used in lifesaving equipment markings must be in block capital letters.

(c) Retroreflective markings required by this section must be with material approved under part 164, subpart 164.018 of this chapter. The arrangement of the retroreflective material must meet IMO Resolution A.658(16).

(d) A wearable personal flotation device must be marked with the name of either the vessel, the owner of the device, or the individual to whom it is assigned.

TABLE 28.135—LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT MARKINGS

Item	Markings Required	
	Name of vessel	Retroreflective material
Wearable personal flotation device (Type I, II, III, or wearable Type V); Immersion suit or exposure suit	See § 28.135(d) .....	Type I or Type II.
Ring life buoy .....	X .....	Type II.
Inflatable liferaft .....	See note .....	See note.
Inflatable buoyant apparatus .....	See note .....	See note.
Life float .....	X .....	Type II.
Buoyant apparatus .....	X .....	Type II.
Auxiliary craft .....	X .....	Type II.
EPIRB .....	X .....	Type II.

NOTE: No marking other than that provided by the manufacturer and the servicing facility is required.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991; 56 FR 49822, Oct. 1, 1991, as amended by CGD 95-012, 60 FR 48048, Sept. 18, 1995]

**§ 28.140 Operational readiness, maintenance, and inspection of lifesaving equipment.**

(a) The master or individual in charge of a vessel must ensure that each item of lifesaving equipment must

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be in good working order, ready for immediate use, and readily accessible before the vessel leaves port and at all times when the vessel is operated.

(b) Each item of lifesaving equipment, including unapproved equipment, must be maintained and inspected in accordance with:

- (1) Table 28.140 in this section;
- (2) The servicing procedure under the subpart of this chapter applicable to the item's approval; and
- (3) The manufacturer's guidelines.

(c) An inflatable liferaft or inflatable buoyant apparatus must be serviced no later than the month and year on its servicing sticker affixed under 46 CFR 160.151-57(n), and whenever the container is damaged or the container straps or seals are broken. It must be serviced at a facility specifically approved by the Commandant for the particular brand.

(d) An escape route from a space where an individual may be employed or an accommodation space must not be obstructed.

**TABLE 28.140—SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT**

Item	Interval		Regulation
	Monthly	Annually	
(1) Inflatable wearable personal flotation device (Type V commercial hybrid) .....	.....	Servicing .....	28.140
(2) Personal flotation devices, exposure suits and immersion suits .....	.....	Inspect, clean and repair as necessary.	28.140
(3) Buoyant apparatus and life floats .....	.....	Inspect, clean and repair as necessary.	28.140
(4) Inflatable liferaft .....	.....	Servicing <sup>1</sup> .....	28.140
(5) Inflatable buoyant apparatus .....	.....	Servicing <sup>1</sup> .....	28.140
(6) Hydrostatic release .....	.....	Servicing <sup>1</sup> .....	28.140
(7) Disposable hydrostatic release .....	.....	Replace on or before expiration date.	28.140
(8) Undated batteries .....	.....	Replace .....	28.140
(9) Dated batteries <sup>2</sup> and other items .....	.....	Replace on or before expiration date.	25.26-50, 28.140
(10) EPIRB .....	Test .....	.....	25.26-50

<sup>1</sup> For a new liferaft or inflatable buoyant apparatus, the first annual servicing may be deferred to two years from the date of first packing if so indicated on the servicing sticker.  
<sup>2</sup> Water activated batteries must be replaced whenever they are used.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991; 56 FR 49822, Oct. 1, 1991, as amended at USCG-2001-11118, 67 FR 58540, Sept. 17, 2002; USCG-2004-18884, 69 FR 58344, Sept. 30, 2004]

**§ 28.145 Distress signals.**

Except as provided by 28.305, each vessel must be equipped with the distress signals specified in table 28.145.

**TABLE 28.145—DISTRESS SIGNALS**

Area	Devices required
Ocean, more than 50 miles from coastline.	3 parachute flares, approval series 160.136; plus 6 hand flares, approval series 160.121; plus 3 smoke signals, approval series 160.122.
Ocean, 3-50 miles from the coastline; or more than 3 miles from the coastline on the Great Lakes.	3 parachute flares, approval series 160.136, or 160.036; plus 6 hand flares, approval series 160.121 or 160.021; plus 3 smoke signals, approval series 160.122, 160.022, or 160.037.

**TABLE 28.145—DISTRESS SIGNALS—Continued**

Area	Devices required
Coastal waters, excluding the Great Lakes; or within 3 miles of the coastline on the Great Lakes.	Night visual distress signals consisting of one electric distress light, approval series 161.013 or 3 approved flares; plus Day visual distress signals consisting of one distress flag, approval series 160.072, or 3 approved flares, or 3 approved smoke signals. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> If flares are carried, the same 3 flares may be counted toward meeting both the day and night requirement.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 48048, Sept. 18, 1995; USCG-2000-7790, 65 FR 58458, Sept. 29, 2000]