

**§ 160.072-09 Manufacturer notification.**

(a) Each manufacturer certifying flags in accordance with the specifications of this subpart must send written notice to the Commandant (CG-ENG), Attn: Office of Design and Engineering Systems, U.S. Coast Guard Stop 7509, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20593-7509;

(1) Within 30 days after first certifying a flag,

(2) Every five years as long as the manufacturer continues to produce flags, and

(3) Each time the design or construction material of the flag changes.

(b) [Reserved]

[CGD 76-183a, 44 FR 73054, Dec. 17, 1979, as amended by CGD 88-070, 53 FR 34536, Sept. 7, 1988; CGD 95-072, 60 FR 50467, Sept. 29, 1995; CGD 95-072, 60 FR 50467, Sept. 29, 1995; CGD 96-041, 61 FR 50733, Sept. 27, 1996; USCG-2009-0702, 74 FR 49237, Sept. 25, 2009; USCG-2013-0671, 78 FR 60158, Sept. 30, 2013]

**Subpart 160.073—Float-Free Link or Life Floats and Buoyant Apparatus**

SOURCE: CGD 79-167, 47 FR 41378, Sept. 20, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 160.073-1 Scope.**

(a) This subpart contains requirements for a float-free link used for connecting a life float or buoyant apparatus painter to a vessel. The float-free link is designed to be broken by the buoyant force of the life float or buoyant apparatus so that the float or apparatus breaks free of a vessel that sinks in water deeper than the length of the painter.

(b) [Reserved]

**§ 160.073-5 Certification.**

(a) The float-free link is not approved by the Coast Guard. The manufacturer of the link must certify that it meets all of the requirements of this subpart by application of the markings required in § 160.073-20.

(b) If the manufacturer wants the link to be listed in the Coast Guard publication COMDTINST M16714.3 (Series), "Equipment Lists," the manufacturer must send a letter requesting the listing to Commandant (CG-ENG),

Attn: Office of Design and Engineering Systems, U.S. Coast Guard Stop 7509, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20593-7509.

[CGD 79-167, 47 FR 41378, Sept. 20, 1982, as amended by CGD 88-070, 53 FR 34536, Sept. 7, 1988; CGD 95-072, 60 FR 50467, Sept. 29, 1995; CGD 96-041, 61 FR 50733, Sept. 27, 1996; USCG-2009-0702, 74 FR 49237, Sept. 25, 2009; USCG-2013-0671, 78 FR 60158, Sept. 30, 2013]

**§ 160.073-10 Construction and performance.**

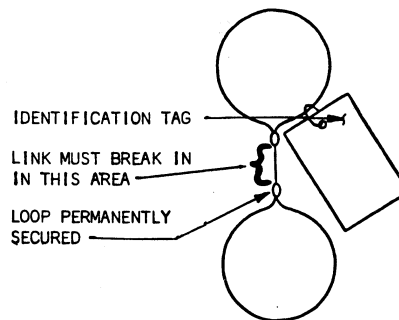
(a) The link must be constructed essentially as shown in figure 160.073-10. The link must be formed from a single salt water corrosion-resistant wire. A loop at least 50 mm (2 in.) in diameter must be provided at each end of the wire. Each loop must be permanently secured.

(b) The breaking strength of each link must be between:

(1) 450 N (100 lb.) and 600 N (134 lb.) for links intended for life floats and buoyant apparatus of 10 persons and less capacity.

(2) 900 N (200 lb.) and 1200 N (268 lb.) for links intended for life floats and buoyant apparatus of 11 to 20 persons capacity.

(3) 1800 N (400 lb.) and 2400 N (536 lb.) for links intended for life floats and buoyant apparatus of 21 persons and more capacity.

**§ 160.073-15 Tests.**

(a) The manufacturer shall perform a tensile test on the first three links made from a particular spool of wire. The test must be done by slowly loading the link until it breaks. The link must break between the limits specified in § 160.073-10(b). The break must

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occur in the length of wire at or between the points where the loops are secured (see Figure 160.073-10).

(b) If each of the three links passes the test, each link constructed in the same manner from the same spool of wire may be certified by the manufacturer as meeting the requirements of this subpart.

(c) If one or more of the three links fails the test, no link manufactured in the same manner and from the same spool of wire as the test links may be certified as meeting the requirements of this subpart.

§ 160.073-20 Marking.

(a) Each link certified by the manufacturer to meet the requirements of this subpart must have a corrosion resistant, waterproof tag attached to it that has the following information on it (the manufacturer must make the appropriate entries in the indicated space):

FLOAT-FREE LINK FOR LIFE FLOATS  
AND BUOYANT APPARATUS  
Of (10 or less) (11 to 20) (21 or more) persons capacity.

Normal	breaking	strength
Meets U.S. coast guard Requirements—46 CFR 160.073.		
Made	by:	(name and address)
(Date) _____		

(b) [Reserved]

Subpart 160.076—Inflatable Recreational Personal Flotation Devices

SOURCE: CGD 94-110, 60 FR 32848, June 23, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 160.076-1 Scope.

(a) This subpart contains structural and performance standards for approval of inflatable recreational personal flotation devices (PFDs), as well as requirements for production follow-up inspections, associated manuals, information pamphlets, and markings.

(b) Inflatable PFDs approved under this subpart rely entirely upon inflation for buoyancy.

[CGD 94-110, 60 FR 32848, June 23, 1995, as amended by USCG-2011-0076, 77 FR 19942, Apr. 3, 2012]

§ 160.076-3 Applicability.

Inflatable PFDs approved under this subpart may be used to meet the carriage requirements of 33 CFR 175.15 and 175.17 on the following types of vessels only:

- (a) Recreational vessels.
- (b) Uninspected recreational submersible vessels.

§ 160.076-5 Definitions.

As used in this part:

*Commandant* means the Chief of the Lifesaving and Fire Safety Standards Division. Address: Commandant (CG-ENG-4), Attn: Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division, U.S. Coast Guard Stop 7509, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20593-7509; telephone 202-372-1392 or fax 202-372-1924.

*Conditional approval* means a category of PFD which has condition(s) on its approval with which the user must comply in order for the PFD to be counted toward meeting the carriage requirements of the vessel being used. All conditionally approved PFDs are designated Approval Type V.

*First quality workmanship* means construction which is free from any defect materially affecting appearance or serviceability.

*Inflation medium* means any solid, liquid, or gas that, when activated, provides inflation for buoyancy.

*Inspector* means a recognized laboratory representative assigned to perform, supervise or oversee the duties described in §§160.076-29 and 160.076-31 of this subpart or any Coast Guard representative performing duties related to the approval.

*MOU* means memorandum of understanding which describes the approval functions a recognized independent laboratory performs for the Coast Guard, and the recognized independent laboratory's working arrangements with the Coast Guard.

*Performance type* means the in-water performance classification of the PFD (I, II, or III).

*PFD* means personal flotation device as defined in 33 CFR 175.13.

*PFD Approval Type* means the Type designation assigned by the Commandant, as documented in the approval certificate for the PFD, based