§ 170.245 Foam flotation material.

(a) Installation of foam must be approved by the OCMI.

(b) If foam is used to comply with §171.070(d), §171.095(c), or §173.063(e) of this subchapter, the following applies:

1. Foam may be installed only in void spaces that are free of ignition sources.

2. The foam must comply with NPFC MIL–P–21929B (incorporated by reference; see 46 CFR 170.015), including the requirements for fire resistance.

3. A submergence test must be conducted for a period of at least 7 days to demonstrate whether the foam has adequate strength to withstand a hydrostatic head equivalent to that which would be imposed if the vessel were submerged to its margin line.

4. The effective buoyancy at the end of the submergence test must be used as the buoyancy credit; however, in no case will a credit greater than 55 lbs per cubic foot (881 kilograms per cubic meter) be allowed.

5. The structure enclosing the foam must be strong enough to accommodate the buoyancy of the foam.

6. Piping and cables must not pass through foamed spaces unless they are within piping and cable trunks accessible from both ends.