



08 2018 AUG

FM: DVC-VE

TO: DCOs, DDC-P, DSO – VEs

SUBJ: POLICY CLARIFICATION – INFLATABLE PFDs

Two documents discuss a clarification regarding the use of inflatable personal flotation (PFDs) for Auxiliary surface personnel. The Coast Guard document is a policy and reference guide stating: the Mustang Survival MD-3183 v34 is the only CG approved inflatable PFD authorized for use by Auxiliary personnel. It also discusses the Purpose, Action, Directives Affected and Background information. The Coast Guard Auxiliary document was written by Joseph Reichal, DIR-V and approved by GB-BSX-12, on the type of PFD that can be worn by Vessel Examiners while performing vessel safety checks vessels in the water and Auxiliary facility operations. This document gives clarification to the Vessel Safety Manual, COMDTINST M16769.8 (series).

On 05 Jul, an ALAUX 015/18, Policy Clarification – Auxiliary Inflatable PFDs, was released. ALAUX 015/18 was to clarify policy regarding the use of inflatable personal flotation devices (PFDs) for Auxiliary surface operations personnel. It stated “the Mustang Survival MD-3183 v34 is the only CG approved inflatable PFD authorized for use by Auxiliary personnel.” In the ALAUX, reference was made to the Vessel Safety Manual, COMDTINST M16769.8 (series). This reference has resulted in several questions concerning the type of PFD that can be worn by Vessel Examiners when performing vessel safety checks on boats in the water. The intent of the reference to the VSC Manual was to ensure VEs were aware that if an inflatable PFD is on board a facility to fulfill the carriage requirement during a Facility Inspection, it must be Coast Guard approved. Any USCG approved life jacket or PFD worn by a VE during a VSC is authorized. It should be thoroughly inspected at the beginning of the season and a routine inspection done prior to use to ensure it is in good working condition and safe to use.

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