



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Amended Interim Rule Published on Inflatable Liferafts and Inflatable Buoyant Apparatuses

The U.S. Coast Guard announced today in the *Federal Register* publication of an amended interim rule for inflatable liferafts and inflatable buoyant apparatuses, found in 46 CFR part 160, subparts 160.151 (Inflatable Liferafts (SOLAS)) and 160.051 (Inflatable Liferafts for Domestic Service).

On October 11, 2011, the Coast Guard published an interim rule titled “Lifesaving Equipment: Production Testing and Harmonization With International Standards; Interim Rule” (2011 Interim Rule) making effective changes for lifesaving equipment, including launching appliances (winches and davits), release mechanisms, survival craft (lifeboats, liferafts, and buoyant apparatuses), rescue boats, and automatic disengaging devices. The interim rule harmonized the Coast Guard’s design, construction, and performance standards for lifesaving equipment with international standards.

Also on October 11, 2011, the Coast Guard published a supplementary notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) proposing amendments to the 2011 Interim Rule for inflatable liferafts and buoyant apparatuses. The SNPRM addressed amendments to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Life-saving Appliance Code and Revised Recommendation on Testing affecting capacity requirements for inflatable liferafts, and by extension buoyant apparatuses. These amendments were recently adopted by the IMO and entered into force on January 1, 2012.

Today’s publication makes the amendments to the 2011 Interim Rule, as proposed in the SNPRM, effective without any substantive changes.

The final rule and related materials may be reviewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-2010-0048.

For more information on this rule making, please contact Ms. Jacqi Yurkovich at (202) 372-1389 or Jacqueline.m.yurkovich@uscg.mil.

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