

R 291209Z MAY 15

ALCOAST 231/15

COMDTNOTE 10470

SUBJ: CH-1 TO RESCUE AND SURVIVAL SYSTEMS MANUAL, COMDTCHANGENOTE 10470

A. CH-1 TO RESCUE AND SURVIVAL SYSTEMS MANUAL, COMDTCHANGENOTE 10470

B. RESCUE AND SURVIVAL SYSTEMS MANUAL, COMDTINST M10470.10 (series)

C. AUXILIARY OPERATIONS POLICY MANUAL, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series)

1. Purpose. This message announces the promulgation of reference (A) that has updated reference (B). Reference (A) is effective as of the date of its publication. This message also extends the compliance date to 01 June, 2016 for Rescue and Survival Systems (RSS) equipment used by Auxiliary crews.

2. Background. Reference (B) establishes policy, equipment standards, procedures and procurement authorization for the use, configuration, maintenance and logistics of rescue and survival equipment used by United States Coast Guard personnel operating on or near the water. Since the promulgation of reference (B), the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG BSX 1) identified the need to extend the compliance period to provide time to procure, train, and place into service additional survival equipment required for Auxiliary crews. Provisions that address geographic and logistical challenges associated with Auxiliary survival systems have also been added among the addition of more general content changes affecting users of Reference (B).

3. Summary of Changes. Major changes that reference (A) has affected in reference (B) are as follows:

- A. Added circumstances and conditions of Ready Service Locker.
- B. Added explanation of dry suit issue.
- C. Added conditions for operating in cold weather for units not required to have cold weather gear.
- D. Added CO/OIC responsibility to determine whether waived equipment shall be carried while underway.
- E. Added "crewmembers" in place of "CG Personnel" in sections discussing the wear of hypothermia gear.
- F. Added correct blanks in place of incorrect blanks for content related to Personal Clothing and Equipment Record, Form AF 538.
- G. Removed link to electronically-signable version of Form AF 538.
- H. Added Goggles and Sunglasses to Returnable Items.
- I. Removed Safety Boots and replaced with Tactical Boots.
- J. Clarified required life raft capacity for cutters.
- K. Removed requirement that PFD PQS completion shall be recorded on an Administrative Remarks, Form CG 3307.
- L. Removed CGM models of personal flotation devices.
- M. Added wording allowing exception to Layer I and II requirement with dry suit.
- N. Removed specific thigh pocket requirement for storing neoprene hood, now allowing unspecified pocket storage.
- O. Modified salient characteristics of Cold Weather Boots.
- P. Added Mustang Survival MD-0450 v22 among options for minimum flotation requirement for Tactical operations.
- Q. Added provisions to accommodate the unique challenges associated with managing a survival systems program within the Auxiliary workforce.

4. Directives affected. With the release of reference (A), Reference (B) is updated.

5. Additional Auxiliary Provisions:

- A. Auxiliarists may carry their non-pyrotechnic equipment

(specifically, the Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), whistle, signal mirror, strobe light, and optional knife) in pockets built into the authorized Type III or inflatable PFDs by the manufacturer, or in a waist belt pocket. The waist belt pocket part number found on the Inflatable PFD Maintenance Procedure Card (MPC) is the only authorized model that can be used.

B. Auxiliarists shall be issued only Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate to the mission parameters and environment in which they operate.

C. The 30-day check for the PLB, if not already performed within the past 30 days, shall be performed immediately prior to getting underway under orders. If the PLB fails this pre-underway check, the PLB shall be removed from service and replaced prior to getting underway.

6. In accordance with reference (C), the Order Issuing Authority (OIA) is responsible for ensuring Auxiliarists have appropriate PPE prior to issuance of orders. Recognizing that geographical and seasonal challenges vary greatly across Auxiliary regions:

A. OIAs and Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) shall develop a Survival Systems program that effectively implements these requirements across their operational area of responsibility.

B. OIAs and Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) shall ensure Auxiliarists are properly outfitted and trained to use required PPE.

C. OIAs shall designate at least one Auxiliarist recommended by the Flotilla Commander in writing as the Rescue and Survival Systems Officer within each flotilla to manage PPE issuance, training, and maintenance. If a flotilla has no active Boat Crew Qualification Program participants among its membership and no survival equipment that is subject to these provisions, the an RSS Officer does not need to be designated.

D. OIAs shall train and guide the designated flotilla members on how to conduct maintenance of rescue and survival equipment.

E. OIAs shall ensure up-to-date MPCs are available to their Auxiliarists to help facilitate the completion of preventive maintenance and build-up procedures. Because Auxiliary PPE is not recorded in ALMIS, paper maintenance records are required to be maintained for each piece of equipment. Appendix A of reference (B) contains the only maintenance records that are authorized to be used.

F. Operational Training Officers shall review the rescue and survival program when conducting flotilla visits.

7. The provisions of Paragraph 6 will be incorporated into the next change to Reference (C).

8. Effective immediately, the only automatic inflatable Personal Flotation Device (PFD) authorized for Auxiliary crews while under orders are those that are specifically listed in reference (B). Auxiliarists who have procured their own automatic inflatable PFDs that are not listed in reference (B) shall remove them from service. Manual inflatable PFDs are not authorized for use.

9. Distribution. Electronic versions are located on the CG Directives Intranet site at: <http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/CGDirectives/> and the Boat Forces Intranet site at: <http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/g-rcb/manuals.htm>.

10. POC is CWO4 Steve Norquist, COMDT (CG-7311), at (202)-372-2450 or [Steve.C.Norquist@uscg.mil](mailto:Steve.C.Norquist@uscg.mil).

11. Released by RDML J. P. Nadeau, Assistant Commandant for Capability and RDML Paul F. Thomas, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy.

12. Internet release is authorized.