

AL AUX 015-18 POLICY CLARIFICATION - AUXILIARY INFLATABLE PFDS

05 JUL 2018

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

AL AUX 015/18

SUBJ: POLICY CLARIFICATION - AUXILIARY INFLATABLE PFDS

1. Recently, the Office of the Auxiliary (CG-BSX-1) worked with the Office of Boat Forces (CG-731) to clarify policy regarding the use of inflatable personal flotation devices (PFDs) for Auxiliary surface operations personnel. A copy of the policy letter, the MD-3183 (series) PFD Personal Qualification Standard (PQS), and the MD-3183 v34 Maintenance Procedure Card (MPC) have been posted to Auxiliary National Response Directorate website. Copied below is the text from the Office of Boat Forces Policy Letter.

Subj: POLICY LETTER CLARIFICATION 05-18. AUXILIARY INFLATABLE PFDS

Ref: (a) Rescue and Survival Systems Manual, COMDTINST M10470.10 (series)
(b) Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series)
(c) Vessel Safety Check Manual, COMDTINST M16769.8 (series)

1. **PURPOSE.** This letter clarifies Auxiliary use of inflatable PFDs.
2. **ACTION.** Area commanders shall make their district commanders, Boat Forces Unit Commanding Officers (CO), Officers in Charge (OIC), Order Issuing Authorities (OIA), and Directors of Auxiliary aware of this Boat Forces Policy Letter and its contents.
3. **BACKGROUND.** Reference (a) establishes policy, equipment standards, procedures and procurement authorization for the use, configuration, maintenance and

logistics of rescue and survival equipment used by Coast Guard personnel (including Auxiliary personnel) operating on or near the water. Reference (b) requires all Auxiliaries wear a CG approved PFD while on patrol under orders. Reference (c) requires that all PFDs on an Auxiliary facility be CG approved. Reference (a), Part 2, Chapter 4, section A.9 lists the Non-CG Approved Automatic/Inflatable PFDs authorized for use by Coast Guard personnel but does not list any CG approved inflatable PFDs. Currently, the Mustang Survival MD-3183 v34 is the only CG approved inflatable PFD authorized for use by Auxiliary personnel. The MD 3183 v34 is the only inflatable PFD that meets CG approval standards, has a unique Surface Forces Logistics Center (SFLC) Maintenance Procedure Card (MPC KB0143.0), and is available as a model with required CG Auxiliary markings. Because of lack of policy, non-CG approved inflatable PFDs were purchased and issued to Auxiliary members which conflicts with PFD requirements outlined in references (b) and (c).

4. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** Reference (a), Part 2, Chapter 4, section A will be updated with the following:

A.9.e Mustang Survival MD-3183 v34 (CG Auxiliary)

The MD-3183 v34 with survival pockets is optional equipment that may be used in lieu of inherently buoyant PFDs and boat crew survival vest combination. It may be used by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for all surface operations by members who have completed the Mustang Survival MD-3183 (series) performance qualification standard. **Currently, the MD-3183 v34 is the only CG approved inflatable PFD authorized for CG Auxiliary use.**