

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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United States Coast Guard

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BSX Policy Letter 21-04
17 Dec 2021

From: /T. P. Glendye, CAPT/
Chief, Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety

Reply to CDR E. Cruz
Attn of: (202) 372-1268

To: Distribution

Subj: AUXILIARY AVIATION PPE and DAY/NIGHT PYROTECHNIC FLARES UPDATE

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series), Annex 1, section D
(b) Ordnance Manual, COMDTINST M8000.2 (series)
(c) Financial Resource Management Manual (FRMM), COMDTINST M7100.3 (series)
(d) 14 CFR § 91.501
(e) 14 CFR § 91.509
(f) Adoption of RTCM Standard 13200.0 for Electronic Visual Distress Signal Devices (eVDSDs), 16702, CG-ENG Policy Letter 03-18
(g) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Auxiliary Aviation, (Nov 2021)

1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this policy letter is to update Auxiliary aviation Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) policies in reference (a).
2. **ACTION.** All Auxiliary pilots, air crew members, and air observers must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter. Elected and appointed leaders and program managers at all levels of the Auxiliary organization shall ensure adherence to this Policy Letter.
3. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** These changes will be incorporated into the next revision of reference (a).
4. **BACKGROUND.** Reference (a) requires a day/night pyrotechnic flare for each air crew member on board an Auxiliary aircraft while they are assigned to duty. Due to accountability concerns and references (b)-(e) policy requirements regarding Coast Guard-issued pyrotechnics and commercial pyrotechnic purchases, the Auxiliary Flight Standards Team recommended removing day/night pyrotechnic flares from Auxiliary aircraft and replacing them with a single non-pyrotechnic signaling device for the entire air crew.
5. **DISCLAIMER.** This Policy Letter is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it a rule. It is intended to define requirements for Auxiliary personnel and is not intended to, nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.

6. MAJOR CHANGES. The policy changes below are effective immediately:

a. The Coast Guard requirement for day/night pyrotechnic flares onboard Auxiliary aircraft is rescinded, unless otherwise required by the FARs. Day/night pyrotechnic flares are to be removed from Auxiliary aircraft and replaced with at least one Coast Guard-approved electronic Visual Distress Signaling Device (eVDSD) onboard the aircraft by 01 June 2022 or by the expiration date of the pyrotechnics currently onboard the aircraft if that is prior to 01 June 2022, whichever date comes first.

In accordance with reference (f), eVDSDs that have been accepted as meeting the RTCM 13200.0 standard may be carried to meet regulatory requirements for nighttime distress signals per 33 CFR 175.130.

The eVDSD replaces the nighttime portion of the pyrotechnic. The dye marker or sea rescue device, as required air crewmember survival equipment, replaces the day portion of the pyrotechnic.

Auxiliary aircraft specified in 14 CFR Part 91.501 and conducting overwater operations as specified in 14 CFR Part 91.509 are still required to carry one day/night pyrotechnic signaling device for each life raft.

b. Reference (a), is updated to read:

D.4 Survival Equipment. Air crew members must carry the following survival equipment on their person and tethered to the garment worn. It is not necessary for air crew members to duplicate the equipment in the life raft.

- Signaling mirror
- Portable or pocket strobe light
- Dye marker or sea rescue device
- Chemical emergency light
- Whistle
- Survival knife

D.4.a. Electronic Visual Distress Signaling Device (eVDSD). Auxiliary aircraft shall carry at least one Coast Guard-approved eVDSD on the aircraft. Air crew members shall store the eVDSD(s) in a position so that it may be removed without air crew members leaving their flight station(s). The air crew member physically closest to the eVDSD position shall ensure it is taken in the event of an aircraft evacuation.

D.4.b. Recommended Additional Equipment. Recommended additional equipment includes:

- Insect repellent
- Space blanket
- Waterproof matches

- Sunscreen cream
- Pocket compass
- Air Station Commanding Officers may require additional items necessary for local conditions.

D.4.c. In accordance with Financial Resource Management Manual (FRMM), COMDTINST M7100.3 (series), commercial pyrotechnic shall not be purchased using Coast Guard funding.

- c. Reference (g), is posted on the Auxiliary national Response Directorate's website and provides specific PPE recommendations. In addition, a list of approved eVSDs can be found in this document: [aviation2.pdf \(menlosecurity.com\)](#)

7. **DISTRIBUTION.** No paper distribution will be made of this Policy Letter. An electronic version will be posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary and Auxiliary web sites: <http://agroup-bx.wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP> and <http://www.cgaux.org/>, respectively. All web sites in this Policy Letter are the most current available. If the cited web site link does not work, then access should be attempted by copying and pasting or typing the web site address into the user's internet browser.
8. **QUESTIONS.** Questions concerning this Policy Letter should be directed to the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1) at CGAUX@uscg.mil. This Policy Letter and other policy documents are posted on the Auxiliary website at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=risk-mgt>
9. **REQUEST FOR CHANGES.** Units and individuals may recommend changes in writing via their cognizant Auxiliary chain of leadership to Commandant (CG-BSX-1), ATTN: Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1), U. S. Coast Guard Stop 7501, 2703 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVE SE, WASHINGTON DC 20593-7501.
10. Internet release is authorized.

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