



16114
23 May 2018

MEMORANDUM

From: J. B. Rush 
COMDT (CG-731)

Reply to CWO Norquist
Attn of: (202) 372-2450

To: COMLANTAREA (LANT-3)
COMPACAREA (PAC-3)

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 M16796.8 (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 Auxiliarists 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.10. Mustang Survival MD-3183 v34 (CG Auxiliary)

The MD-3183 v34 with survival equipment 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.**