



16794 / AUX-PL-029(A)
BSX Policy Letter 25-01
13 Jun 2025

MEMORANDUM

From: /B. R. Schmadeke, CAPT/
Chief, Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety

Reply to LTJG K. M.
Attn of: Richters
(202) 372-1267

To: Distribution

Subj: AUXILIARY PADDLECRAFT PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
REQUIREMENTS

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Paddlecraft (AUXPAD) Safety Program Handbook, 16794.11 (series)

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Policy Letter is to update the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements in reference (a).
2. ACTION. All District Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Operations Training Officers (OTO), Order Issue Authorities (OIA), and Auxiliarists must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter.
3. AUTHORIZED RELEASE. Internet release is authorized.
4. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. These changes will be incorporated into the next revision of reference (a).
5. BACKGROUND.
 - a. Per reference (a), Chapter 2.C.3. in the list of "Requirements", number 20 states: "Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) with registered MMSI number (optional; may request issuances from the Chain of Leadership and Management or use a personally owned PLB)."
 - b. The PLB is a required issuance item for all underway operations performed by Auxiliarists. All Auxiliarists certified as Auxiliary Paddlecraft (AUXPAD) operators must have a PLB issued and signed for in AUXDATA II and attached to the Personal Flotation Device (PFD) while underway on approved Patrol Orders.
 - c. Currently certified AUXPAD operators that do not have a PLB issued to them in AUXDATA II must have one issued prior to requesting or executing approved Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II.
 - d. Auxiliarists must notify their Flotilla Staff Officer – Rescue and Survival (FSO-RS) or Division Staff Officer – Rescue and Survival (SO-RS) to request PLB issuance.

- e. OIA's must ensure all AUXPAD operators requesting Patrol Orders have all the required PPE in accordance with this Policy Letter prior to approval and execution of Patrol Orders.
 - f. The Auxiliary Operations Branch Chief (CG-BSX-12), Auxiliary Paddlecraft leadership, and the Office of Boat Forces Rescue and Survival Systems Manager (CG-7311) are working on updating Maintenance Procedure Card (MPC) KB00140.0 Auxiliary Kayaker PFD requirements.
6. DISCLAIMER. This Policy Letter is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it a rule. It is intended to define requirements for Auxiliarists and is not intended to, nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
7. MAJOR CHANGES. The below policy changes to reference (a) are effective immediately:
- a. Chapter 2.C.3.:
 - 2.C.3. In addition to meeting all Federal, State, and local carriage requirements, specific items must be carried on AUXPAD facilities while conducting AUXPAD Afloat Outreach activities. In addition to the following required and optional items 1-20, other equipment may be recommended or required by the OIA in any or all circumstances.
 - 1. Kayak in good working repair (required).
 - 2. Completed "If Found" sticker, attached on the inner starboard side (required).
 - 3. Paddle in good working condition (required).
 - 4. Spare paddle in good working condition (required).
 - 5. Personal Flotation Device (PFD) in good working condition (required, must be worn). All required Boat Crew Survival Equipment (PLB, strobe light or PML, whistle, signaling mirror, and survival knife) must be tethered to the PFD.
 - 6. Deck lines or grab handles on kayak (required).
 - 7. Working, waterproof, floatable VHF-FM marine radio or portable VHF radio. If a Digital Selective Calling (DSC) equipped radio is used, it must have a valid Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number and must be registered (required). (If mobile phone is not carried onboard).
 - 8. Waterproof flashlight, headlamp, or white all-around light (required).
 - 9. First Aid Kit (required).
 - 10. Compass, handheld or mounted (required).
 - 11. Manual dewatering device (required; waived for sit-on-top kayaks).

12. Towline with quick release device; when stored, both ends of the tow system must be releasable under tension (required).
13. Drinking water accessible while underway (required).
14. Small notebook or logbook or other means of taking notes (required).
15. Pen or pencil with notebook above (required).
16. Auxiliary Facility decal (required).
17. Electronic or paper chart of the area of operations. If a paper chart is used, it must be in a waterproof bag intended for marine operations or be printed on waterproof paper (required).
18. Repair kit appropriate for craft and venue (required).
19. Handheld GPS unit (required).
20. Mobile phone in a waterproof container (required) (If VHF radio is not onboard).

b. Chapter 2.G.3.:

- 2.G.3. In addition to the thermal protection listed in Table 2-1, all AUXPAD personnel must wear a kayak-appropriate inherently buoyant USCG approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). The PFD must be equipped with all required Boat Crew Survival Equipment (PLB, strobe light or PML, whistle, signaling mirror, and survival knife). The list of Boat Crew Survival Equipment is subject to change in accordance with the CG-731 PPE Master Equipment List. All required Boat Crew Survival Equipment must be tethered to the PFD. PFDs must be red, orange, or yellow. PFDs may be zip-front or pullover styles.

8. SCOPE AND AUTHORITIES. It is recommended the reader become familiar with the directives and publications noted throughout this Policy Letter.
9. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. This Policy Letter will not result in any substantial change to existing environmental conditions or violations of any applicable federal, state, or local laws relating to the protection of the environment.
10. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Policy Letter. An electronic version will be posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site: [BSX Policy Letters](https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP&category=bsx-policy-letters) or <https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP&category=bsx-policy-letters>. 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.
11. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Questions concerning this Policy Letter should be directed to the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1) at

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CGAUX@uscg.mil. Auxiliary units and individuals may recommend changes in writing via their cognizant Auxiliary chain of leadership to the same address.

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Units