

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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To: All Coast Guard approved life float and buoyant apparatus manufacturers

Subj: H.R. 3619, COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

In H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, congress included the following:

“§ 3104. Survival craft

“(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary **may not approve a survival craft** as a safety device for purposes of this part, unless the craft ensures that no part of an individual is immersed in water.

“(b) The Secretary may authorize a survival craft that does not provide protection described in subsection (a) **to remain in service until not later than January 1, 2015,\* if—**

“(1) **it was approved by the Secretary before January 1, 2010;** and

“(2) it is in serviceable condition.”

It is expected that this will become a Coast Guard regulation sometime before 2015. Therefore, the Coast Guard will cease issuing new approvals or extensions of existing approvals for life floats and buoyant apparatus which allow the occupant's body to be in the water. By no later than January 1, 2015, vessels that presently have life floats or buoyant apparatuses that don't meet the new criteria must remove them from the vessel and replace them with survival craft that meet the new requirement.

Please feel free to contact me or Lieutenant Commander Vincent Gamma of my staff if you have questions concerning any of the above.

Sincerely,

K. J. HEINZ  
Chief, Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division  
U. S. Coast Guard  
By direction

Encl: H.R. 3619 excerpt

Dist: All life float and buoyant apparatus manufacturers