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(b) Lettering used in lifesaving equipment markings must be in block capital letters.

(c) Retroreflective markings required by this section must be with material approved under part 164, subpart 164.018 of this chapter. The arrangement of the retroreflective material must meet IMO Resolution A.658(16).

(d) A wearable personal flotation device must be marked with the name of either the vessel, the owner of the device, or the individual to whom it is assigned.

TABLE 28.135—LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT MARKINGS

Item	Markings Required	
	Name of vessel	Retroflective material
Wearable personal flotation device (Type I, II, III, or wearable Type V); Immersion suit or exposure suit.	See § 28.135(d)	Type I or Type II.
Ring life buoy	X	Type II.
Inflatable liferaft	See note	See note.
Inflatable buoyant apparatus	See note	See note.
Life float	X	Type II.
Buoyant apparatus	X	Type II.
Auxiliary craft	X	Type II.
EPIRB	X	Type II.

NOTE: No marking other than that provided by the manufacturer and the servicing facility is required.

[CGD 88–079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991; 56 FR 49822, Oct. 1, 1991, as amended by CGD 95–012, 60 FR 48048, Sept. 18, 1995]

§ 28.140 Operational readiness, maintenance, and inspection of lifesaving equipment.

(a) The master or individual in charge of a vessel must ensure that each item of lifesaving equipment must be in good working order, ready for immediate use, and readily accessible before the vessel leaves port and at all times when the vessel is operated.

(b) Each item of lifesaving equipment, including unapproved equipment, must be maintained and inspected in accordance with:

(1) Table 28.140 in this section;

(2) The servicing procedure under the subpart of this chapter applicable to the item's approval; and

(3) The manufacturer's guidelines.

(c) An inflatable liferaft or inflatable buoyant apparatus must be serviced no later than the month and year on its servicing sticker affixed under 46 CFR 160.151–57(n), and whenever the container is damaged or the container straps or seals are broken. It must be serviced at a facility specifically approved by the Commandant for the particular brand.

(d) An escape route from a space where an individual may be employed or an accommodation space must not be obstructed.

TABLE 28.140—SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

Item	Interval		Regulation
	Monthly	Annually	
(1) Inflatable wearable personal flotation device (Type V commercial hybrid).	.....	Servicing	28.140
(2) Personal flotation devices, exposure suits and immersion suits.	.....	Inspect, clean and repair as necessary.	28.140
(3) Buoyant apparatus and life floats	.....	Inspect, clean and repair as necessary.	28.140
(4) Inflatable liferaft	.....	Servicing [1]	28.140
(5) Inflatable buoyant apparatus	.....	Servicing [1]	28.140
(6) Hydrostatic release	.....	Servicing [1]	28.140
(7) Disposable hydrostatic release	.....	Replace on or before expiration date.	28.140
(8) Undated batteries	.....	Replace	28.140
(9) Dated batteries [2] and other items	.....	Replace on or before expiration date.	25.26–50, 28.140

TABLE 28.140—SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT—Continued

Item	Interval		Regulation
	Monthly	Annually	
(10) EPIRB	Test		25.26–50

[1] For a new liferaft or inflatable buoyant apparatus, the first annual servicing may be deferred to two years from the date of first packing if so indicated on the servicing sticker.
[2] Water activated batteries must be replaced whenever they are used.

[CGD 88–079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991; 56 FR 49822, Oct. 1, 1991, as amended at USCG–2001–11118, 67 FR 58540, Sept. 17, 2002; USCG–2004–18884, 69 FR 58344, Sept. 30, 2004]

§ 28.145 Distress signals.

Except as provided by 28.305, each vessel must be equipped with the distress signals specified in table 28.145.

TABLE 28.145—DISTRESS SIGNALS

Area	Devices required
Ocean, more than 50 miles from coastline.	3 parachute flares, approval series 160.136; plus 6 hand flares, approval series 160.121; plus 3 smoke signals, approval series 160.122.
Ocean, 3–50 miles from the coastline; or more than 3 miles from the coastline on the Great Lakes.	3 parachute flares, approval series 160.136, or 160.036; plus 6 hand flares, approval series 160.121 or 160.021; plus 3 smoke signals, approval series 160.122, 160.022, or 160.037.
Coastal waters, excluding the Great Lakes; or within 3 miles of the coastline on the Great Lakes.	Night visual distress signals consisting of one electric distress light, approval series 161.013 or 3 approved flares; plus Day visual distress signals consisting of one distress flag, approval series 160.072, or 3 approved flares, or 3 approved smoke signals.[1]

[1] If flares are carried, the same 3 flares may be counted toward meeting both the day and night requirement.

[CGD 88–079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 48048, Sept. 18, 1995; USCG–2000–7790, 65 FR 58458, Sept. 29, 2000]

§ 28.150 Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs).

Each vessel must be equipped with an emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB) as required by 46 CFR part 25, subpart 25.26.

NOTE: Each vessel which uses radio communication equipment must have a Ship Radio Station License issued by the Federal Communications Commission, as set forth in 47 CFR part 80.

§ 28.155 Excess fire detection and protection equipment.

Installation of fire detection and protection equipment in excess of that required by the regulations in this subchapter is permitted provided that the excess equipment does not endanger the vessel or individuals on board in any way. The excess equipment must, at a minimum, be listed and labeled by an independent, nationally recognized testing laboratory and be in accordance with an appropriate industry standard for design, installation, testing, and maintenance.

§ 28.160 Portable fire extinguishers.

(a) Each vessel must meet the requirements of part 25, subpart 25.30 of this chapter.

(b) Each vessel 65 feet (19.8 meters) or more in length must be equipped with the minimum number, location, and type of portable fire extinguishers specified in table 28.160.

TABLE 28.160—PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR VESSELS 65 FEET (19.8 METERS) OR MORE IN LENGTH

Space	Classification	Quantity and location
Safety areas, communicating corridors	A–II	1 in each main corridor not more than 150 feet (49.2 meters) apart. (May be located in stairways.)
Pilothouse	C–I	2 in vicinity of exit.