

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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WMS-2020-1363
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To: USCG RECOGNIZED TEST LABS FOR PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

Subj: INTERIM ADOPTION OF ANSI/CAN/UL 9595 FOR USCG APPROVED PFDS

Our office has been approached regarding implementation of ANSI/CAN/UL 9595. The Coast Guard is currently developing the relevant policy for full adoption of the new standard. However, in the meantime, we have the authority to partially adopt this standard in advance of formal policy or regulatory action. Title 46 CFR 159.005-7(c) grants the USCG authority to accept alternative procedures to those specified by regulation, if it can be demonstrated that the alternative provides equivalent performance characteristics. We have evaluated the requirements contained in ANSI/CAN/UL 9595 and determined that Performance Rating C provides equivalent performance to the current USCG requirements for factory follow-up.

As such, USCG recognized test labs may request authorization from the U. S. Coast Guard to adopt ANSI/CAN/UL 9595, Process Rating C, as a basis for factory follow-up services for USCG approved wearable and throwable PFDs. Your request should be addressed to TypeApproval@uscg.mil and include:

- Any updates to your procedures to necessary to implement Process Rating C;
- Your projected timeline for completing conversion of your client files to the ANSI/CAN/UL 9595 requirements;
- Anticipated changes to your procedures necessary to implement the assignment of Process Ratings A or B in the future; and
- Evidence of accreditation according to paragraph 5.1.1.h of ANSI/CAN/UL 9595.

If you have any follow-up on this matter, please contact me at TypeApproval@uscg.mil. Please reference tracking number WMS-2020-1363 in any correspondence on this matter.

Sincerely,

B. A. BALDWIN
Chief, Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction

Copy: Transport Canada