



U.S. COAST GUARD EIGHTH DISTRICT
GULF OF MEXICO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF
MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN
LIFESAVING APPLIANCE DATA PLATES



MSIB 19-02

28 January 2019

As a follow-up to Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 17-02, this MSIB re-iterates that data plates are required to be affixed to each approved lifesaving appliance as stipulated in each Subpart of 46 C.F.R. Subchapter Q.

Despite the requirement for data plates and/or equipment marking, in some instances, prior practice allowed operators to forgo restoration of marking and/or reinstallation of data plates and allowed various alternate means to attest to suitability.

As of the date of this MSIB, alternate means of approval documentation cease to be an acceptable means of demonstrating equipment approval.

I encourage operators to survey their installed approved lifesaving appliances to ensure compliance with marking and/or data plate requirements and seek Coast Guard assistance when in doubt. Replacement data plates, when required, will only be accepted when issued by the original equipment manufacturer or as outlined in [Marine Safety Manual Volume II](#), Section C, Chapter 2, Paragraph H.2.e (page C2-25).

To facilitate compliance in consideration of prior practice, an abeyance period will be observed. During this abeyance period, deficiencies will not be issued to document previously accepted equipment nonconformities. Beginning July 1, 2019, Coast Guard inspectors will begin issuing deficiencies when nonconformities are discovered or have not yet been resolved.

For questions or clarification on this MSIB, please contact my office at (504) 671-2151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R E Holmes".

R. E. HOLMES
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Eighth District Outer Continental Shelf
Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection