

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard (CG-5214)
2100 Second St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20593
Phone: (202) 372-1392
FAX: (202) 372-1924
E-mail: Kurt.J.Heinz@uscg.mil
www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mse4/mse4home.htm

16714/160.064/General

OCT 26 2007

Mr. William Nash
Director General, Marine Safety
Transport Canada
Safety and Security
Tower C, Place de Ville, 11th Floor
330 Sparks St.
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0N8

Dear Mr. Nash:

This is to follow up on your letter of 13 July 2007 to Mr. Bob Askew, Chairman of the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association (PFDMA), and the 6 September 2007 PFDMA Board meeting in Burlington, Vermont, attended by Mr. Kurt Heinz of my Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division, and Messrs. Victor Santos-Pedro and John Murray of Transport Canada.

At the meeting, it was generally agreed that US-Canadian cooperation in the development of harmonized, risk-based standards for lifejackets/PFDs would be a positive step toward a goal of eventual wider international implementation of such standards through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). There is currently extensive work underway in the United States in this area, jointly funded by the PFD industry and Coast Guard grants, and coordinated by a steering committee with Coast Guard, industry, and laboratory membership. We would welcome full Canadian participation in this initiative. As a first step, I invite you to identify a suitable point of contact at Transport Canada for future exchanges of information, so that we can keep you fully informed of current and future activities, and indicate your interest in potential Transport Canada representation on the steering committee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Heinz directly at (202) 372-1395 or kurt.j.heinz@uscg.mil. We look forward to working with you in the future to improve and harmonize standards for this important lifesaving equipment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. G. Lantz".

J. G. LANTZ
Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction