



- b. Reference (a) mandates that equipment specified within the EEP be available, designed, and maintained to be capable of performing its intended function. In addition, all personnel with assigned emergency duties are required to be trained to perform their designated roles. The default method for verifying the competency of personnel, and the fitness of emergency equipment, is the evaluation of drills in accordance with an approved EEP. This includes the lowering and launching of lifeboats.
  - c. It is strongly recommended all persons on the facility be proficient in lifeboat loading procedures and be familiar with lifeboat equipment (e.g. donning safety harness, pressurization system, sprinkler operation, supply storage, auxiliary starting, oar and hand tiller utilization).
  - d. Per reference (b), the OCS OCMI evaluates alternative plans that do not include the launching of lifeboats. Alternative plans should ensure a degree of safety comparable to, or greater than, that afforded by actual launching. All aspects of maintenance and competency demonstrated and/or assessed during the launching of lifeboats should be accomplished through the implementation of the alternative.
  - e. Vessels subject to SOLAS who wish to pursue an alternative to their required launching schedule should engage with their Flag Administration.
  - f. Alternative plans must be submitted electronically via [ocscorrespondence@uscg.mil](mailto:ocscorrespondence@uscg.mil) to the OCMI no later than ninety (90) days before intended implementation. All elements of an approved alternative will be practically assessed before approval and during subsequent Coast Guard examinations.
6. Forms/Reports: None
  7. Questions. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to Mr. Edward Lacy at (504) 671-2151.
  8. Distribution.
    - a. Eighth District units tasked with conducting inspections of behalf of the OCS OCMI in CGDINST M16613.5 dated 19 May 2020
    - b. Internet release authorized.

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