

# UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY 2020 VESSEL EXAMINER WORKSHOP



Prepared by the  
**NATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR VESSEL EXAMINATION  
AND RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM  
VISITATION**

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard  
Auxiliary**



# THE VSC PROGRAM

The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program objective is to achieve voluntary compliance with recreational boating safety laws and statutes regarding the carriage of safety equipment.



# WHY BECOME A VESSEL EXAMINER?

**You can:**

- **make a difference**
- **save a life**
- **contribute to safety on the water**
- **talk to boaters about safety**
- **answer boaters' questions**
- **help spread the word about the Auxiliary**
- **recruit new members**



# WELCOME VESSEL EXAMINERS

## WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- Offer guidance in conducting vessel safety checks
- Help achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state requirements
- Address Vessel Examiners concerns on current topics



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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Uniforms COMDTINST M16790.1G

- Operation Dress Uniform (ODU)
  - Black boots or boat shoes
- Hot Weather (ODU) Uniform
- USCG Auxiliary Vessel Examiner Polo Shirt
  - ODU shorts, 1" above knee
  - Boat shoes



VESSEL  
EXAMINER  
POLO



OPERATIONAL  
POLO



# NEW VE PRACTICE EXAM

- Historically, the on-line Vessel Examiner test has had a low first-time pass rate
- To improve the first-time pass rate, a practice exam has been added to the V-Directorate Job Aids Kit website under “How to Become a VE” tab
- This exam will test your skill level to see if you are ready to take the online exam
- The VSC practice exam has 100 questions (true/false and multiple choice) taken from the VSC manual and various forms. There is also a separate n Answer Sheet to see how you did.



# VE CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS

In the first year of VE qualification, the VE is **NOT** required to perform five additional VSCs in addition to supervised VSCs conducted during qualification.



# VE CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS

- A qualified VE who fails to perform the annual certification procedures, must complete two satisfactory VSC exams as a trainee, under the supervision of a certified VE using the ANSC Form 7012 to regain qualification
- In addition, another five VSCs are required to retain certification for the following year





# IMPORTANCE OF “ASSIGNMENT TO DUTY”

- Auxiliarists who are injured may be compensated
- Requirements for Assignment to Duty
  - Have a VE Qualification Certification
  - Activity scheduled with elected officer or FSO-VE



# GETTING STARTED

- The VE should emphasize the examination is voluntary and that deficiencies will not be reported to the Coast Guard or other law enforcement agencies
- The VSC is offered at no charge



# REVISED VSC FORM 7012

- The Vessel Safety Check Form 7012 has been updated.
- The new form is version (09-18); however, it does indicate previous editions may still be used.
- The major change allows space for “Remarks” on the first page
- An additional item has been added to the “Recommended and Discussion” section, VIII.k, Insurance Considerations



# AWARDING VSC DECAL

- The VE shall ensure the VSC decal is affixed immediately after the exam
- Attach decal to a visible, permanent piece of the vessel, e.g. lower forward corner of a portside window



# REPORTING ACTIVITY

- **Timely and accurate submission of the VE Activity Form (ANSC-7038) ensures get credit for your effort.**
- **It is encouraged that activity reporting be done after each mission. However, multiple missions may be combined on one form. A mission can include a mix of power/sail boats, paddle craft, and/or facilities.**
- **When a mission includes a trainee, you should submit a separate report for only that portion of the mission during which the trainee was involved. Indicate in the "Remarks" that a trainee was involved. Include the rest of your mission/activity on a separate report.**



# REPORTING ACTIVITY

- If multiple trainees are involved, it is recommended that a separate report be submitted for each trainee, showing yourself as lead. Keep in mind that a vessel safety check can only include one trainee. The use of multiple trainees for a single VSC is not authorized.
- When VSC activity is reported on Form 7038, include all preparation and travel time on your monthly Form 7029 using category 99B
- When reporting activity for a mission, all blocks need to be filled in, even if “0”
- The 7038 has a max of 99 VSCs reported for any mission. If you are trying to report more than 99 VSCs, use two forms





# POWER BOATS



# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Kidde fire extinguisher recall issued 11/2/2017
- Involves two styles of Kidde fire extinguishers: plastic handle and push-button
- The recall involves 134 models manufactured between January 1, 1973 and August 15, 2017
- Contact Kidde to request a free replacement





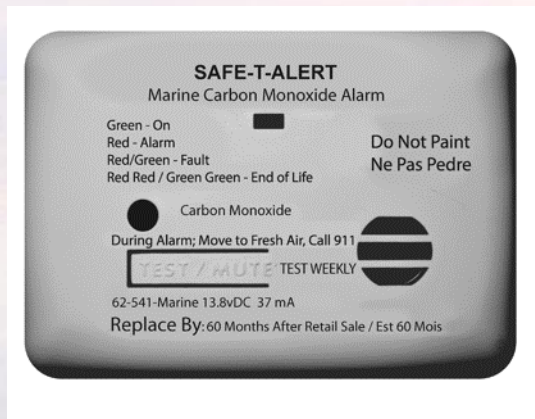
# FIXED FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM

- The VE should look for a means of determining if the system is charged
- If it can be determined the system is charged or not discharged, the system can be counted
- There is no requirement for an inspection tag on a bottle nor requirement to document inspection of the bottle or system



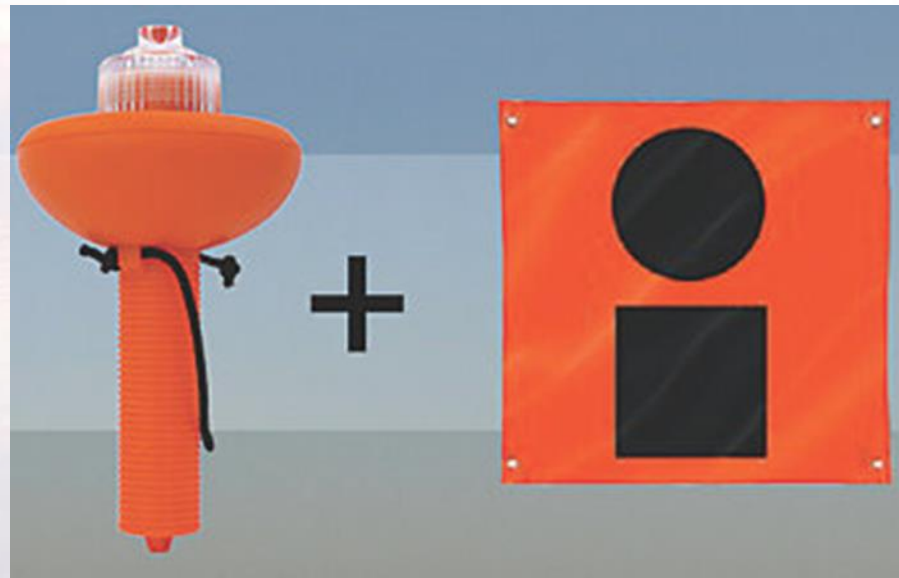
# CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

- Confused with seasickness or intoxication
- Large exposures can result in death
- Install and maintain marine grade approved CO detector



# VESSEL DISTRESS SIGNALS

The SOS distress LED light must be combined with daytime flag (black square and black circle pattern) to comply with the CG day and night requirement.



# **VESSEL DISTRESS SIGNALS**

- Sirius has issued a press release announcing that the Model SOS C-1001 will no longer be manufactured effective January 1, 2020. This is the battery powered signal light that has been on the market for several years now.
- A new model, C-1003, will be available. The new model is powered by a high-performance, programmable microprocessor controlling an SOS flash pattern signal flashed through an even brighter and more potent LED.
- The current C-1001 still meets all current requirements



# NEW LIFE JACKET LABELS

- The traditional “Types” categories are going away
- New labeling system relies more on icons
- Older jackets and flotation aids labeled by “type” still meet regulatory requirements until no longer serviceable



# NEW LIFE JACKET LABELING

- **Two Categories:**
  1. **Wearable**
  2. **Throwable**
- **Wearable life jackets will be divided into five buoyancy categories: 50, 70, 100, 150, and 275 Newtons (metric to harmonize with Canadian standards)**



# NEW LIFE JACKET ICONS

## CHOOSE THE DEVICE YOU WILL WANT TO WEAR

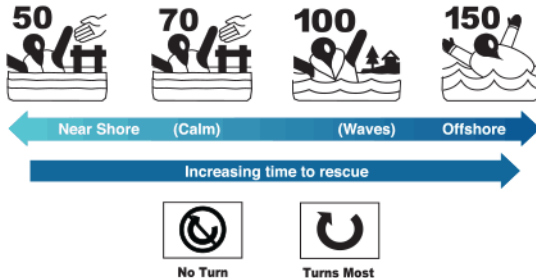
### SIZE & FIT

- Check label for user weight and chest size.
- Different body types float differently.
- A good fit is secure, comfortable, and adjustable.

### TRY IT ON

### PERFORMANCE

- Lower number offers greater mobility, comfort, and style with good flotation for most people.
- Higher number offers greater flotation, turning, and stability in the water.



### CONSIDER YOUR ACTIVITY & ENVIRONMENT

### RISK MANAGEMENT \*

- In over 80% of boating fatalities the person was not wearing flotation.
- Most of these are sudden falls overboard or capsizing of a small boat.
- The first moments in the water are critical, even for experienced swimmers.
- Cold water shock causes gasping, loss of muscle control and swim failure.
- Long term immersion in cold water requires thermal protection and flotation position to conserve energy.

### FLOTATION DEVICES SAVE LIVES








- Choose the level of buoyancy for the type of activity
- The curved arrow indicates that it is likely to turn an unconscious wearer face up in the water

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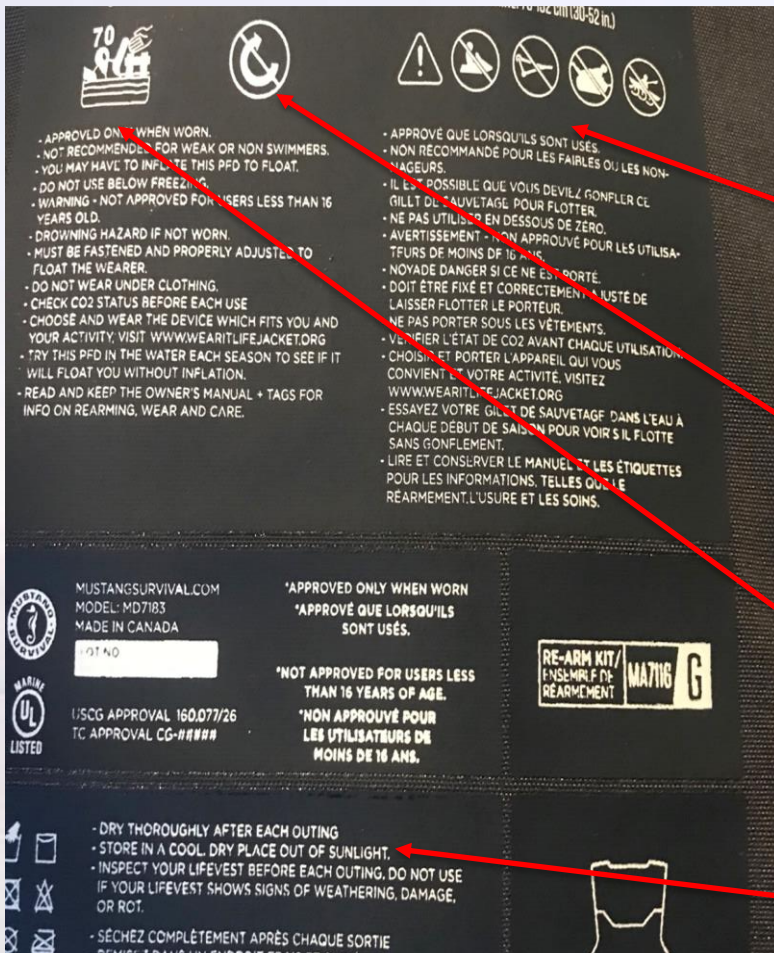


# NEW LIFE JACKET ICONS

Old Type	New Icon
Type I	  
Type II	 
Type III	 
Type IV	Called a throwable
Type V (special purpose vest that met either I, II, or III standards)	Check the icons



# SAMPLE LIFE JACKET LABEL



Limitations of Use (No PWC, Skiing, Towing, Paddle)

Will Not Turn You Face Up

Buoyancy Level (70)

Care

# INFLATABLE FLOTATION DEVICES

- Inflatable life jackets are convenient, less restrictive and comfortable. The examiner can emphasize these points to encourage wear rates.
- Often used for fishing, sailing and paddle sports
- Only approved for persons 16 years of age and older



# CHILD LIFE JACKET RECOMMENDATIONS

## Choosing a child's Life Jacket:

- Must be Coast Guard approved
- The child's weight must fall within the range specified on the label
- Test the fit



# **VESSELS 65 FEET OR GREATER**

- Vessels 65 feet or greater are not eligible for a VSC
- This rule has been in effect for 20 years
- Vessels that large typically have complicated systems that the average VE would have difficulty examining



# BATTERIES

- Batteries should be secured or clamped down to prevent movement
- Each battery must be installed so that metallic objects cannot come in contact with battery terminals
- Covering the positive terminal is a requirement to receive a VSC decal; however, some states may require both terminals be covered
- Vessels with outboard motors are except from the above requirements





# PADDLECRAFT



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# **PADDLE SMART, BE SAFE**

- **Always wear your life jacket and carry a whistle**
- **Know the rules of the road**
- **File a float plan**
- **Plan for changing weather conditions**
- **Know your limits, plan for immersion**
- **Carry a waterproof VHF radio & cell phone**
- **For safety, always paddle in a group**
- **Carry a tow line & small anchor**
- **Wear proper footwear & high visibility clothing**



# PADDLECRAFT REQUIREMENTS

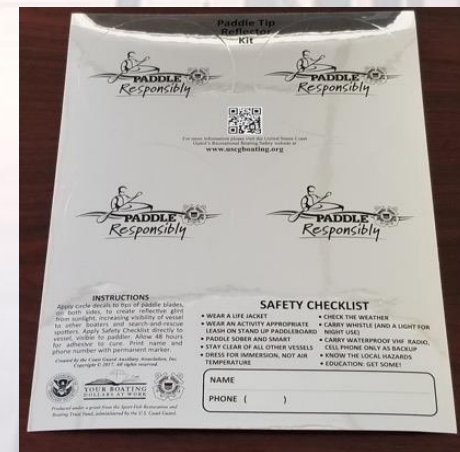
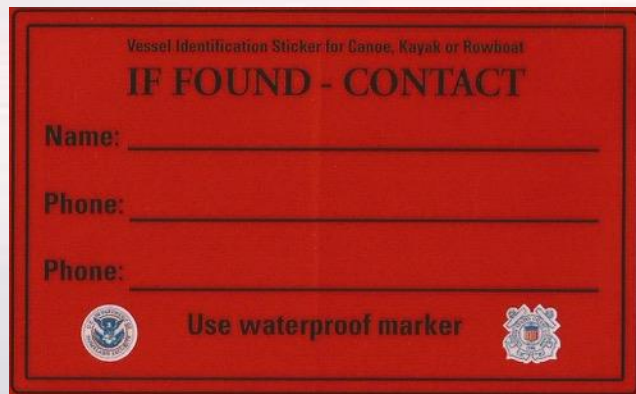
- Boat registration – check state requirements
- Sound device, e.g. whistle, attached to a USCG approved life jacket
- Vessel conditions: as applies, see form 7012A for other requirements





# PADDLECRAFT DECAL AIDS

- “If Found-Contact” sticker popular with paddlers
- Helps law enforcement personnel identify owners of lost paddlecraft
- Offering sticker to paddlers is a great way to start the educational VSC process



# KAYAK SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Life Jacket
- Whistle
- Paddle Cord/Leash
- Paddle Float
- Bilge Pump
- VHF Radio
- Compass
- GPS
- Anchor
- Lights
- Emergency Kit
- Tow lines



# LIFE JACKET AND WHISTLE

- Life jackets designed to keep you afloat
- Paddlers prefer a cutaway design for life jacket
- Whistles or sound producing device



# VHF RADIO

- Portable
- Water resistant
- Effective/Reliable



# STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD IS A VESSEL

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has determined that a stand-up paddleboard is a vessel.



# PADDLECRAFT RESOURCES

**HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT LIFE JACKET**

*A Handy Guide from Your United States Coast Guard*

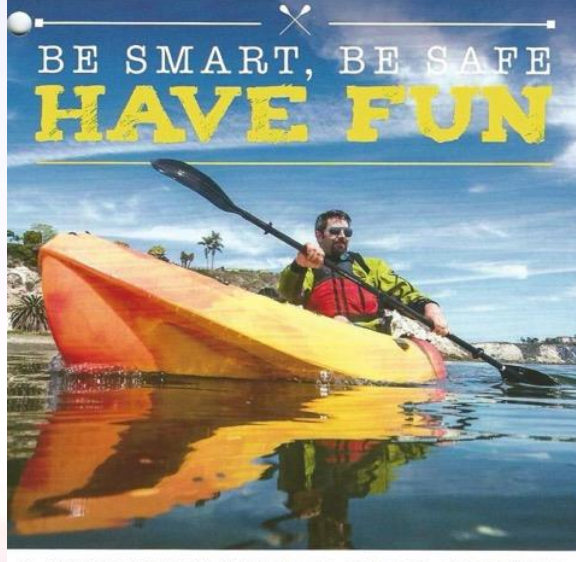



**YOU'RE IN COMMAND**

BOAT RESPONSIBLY


**BE SMART, BE SAFE**

**HAVE FUN**



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO SAFER PADDLING

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
**United States Coast Guard**



**VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS**

**SAFE BOATS HELP SAVE LIVES!**

**BOAT Responsibly**

Paddle Tip  
Paddle Responsibly

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Apply your knowledge to this set of paddle strokes, and each stroke, to create different gulls and patterns, including variety of control, to other boaters and water and rescue workers. Apply safety checklist, always, to your strokes to paddle. Be sure to be advised by local, state, marine, and general weather and environmental conditions.

**SAFETY CHECKLIST**

- WEAR A LIFE JACKET
- WEAR AN ACTIVITY APPROPRIATE LEAK-ON STRAND UP PADDLECOVER. BOAT USE.
- WASH YOUR HANDS AND SHIRT
- STAY CLEAR OF ALL OTHER VESSELS
- DRINK FOR HYDRATION, NOT ALCOHOL
- BE AWARE OF THE WEATHER
- CARRY WHISTLE (AND A LIGHT FOR NIGHT USE)
- CARRY WATERPROOF VHF RADIO, CELL PHONE ONLY AS BACKUP
- KNOW THE LOCAL HAZARDS
- UNDERSTAND THE SCENE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Auxiliary National “V” Department website

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=v-dept>

Vessel Safety Checks for Rental Agencies (Liveries)

<http://vdept.cgaux.org/JobAidFiles/Vessel-Exams-For-Rental-Marina-Facilities.pdf>

paddlecraft Vessel Safety Check Addendum

<http://vdept.cgaux.org/JobAidFiles/SUBsVSCManualAddendum.pdf>

B-Directorate Paddlecraft Safety

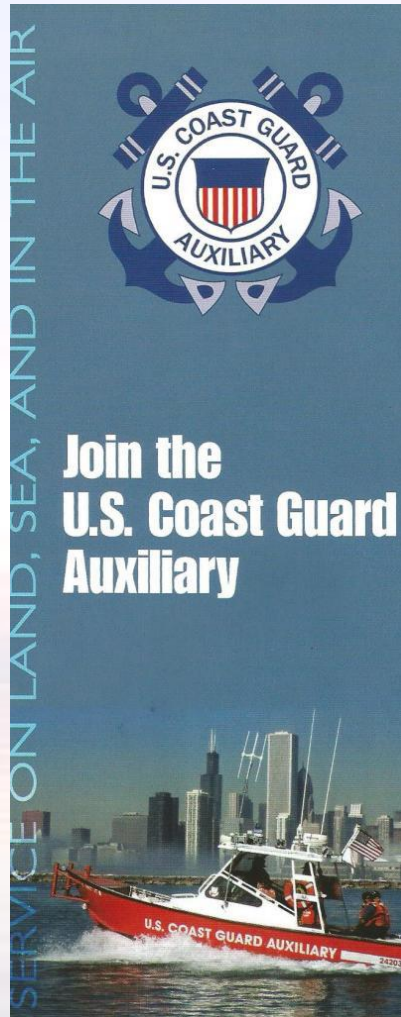
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=B-DEPT&category=paddlecraft-safety>

Paddlecraft videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e0WIXgNGDg>



# EVERYONE IS A RECRUITER



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# REMEMBER

- While performing Vessel Examinations, remember the goal is to educate the public in boating safety
- The United States Coast Guard is in the Recreational Boating Safety business and our responsibility as their partner is to save lives through education



**CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING  
THE 2020 VE WORKSHOP!**

**VSCS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE!**

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