

cognizant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) on or after March 11, 1996, must comply with the regulations in this part. Replacement of existing lifesaving equipment installed before March 11, 1996, must meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

(e) A combination flare and smoke distress signal approved in accordance with §160.023 in subchapter Q of this chapter, may be used on an existing vessel until the expiration date of the distress signal but no later than March 11, 1999, as one of the distress signals required by §117.68 of this part.

(f) Until February 1, 1999, a Coast Guard approved 121.5/243 MHz Class A Emergency Position Indicating Radiobeacon (EPIRB) may be used to meet the requirement for an EPIRB under §117.64 of this part, if the EPIRB:

- (1) Is operable;
- (2) Is installed to automatically float-free and activate;
- (3) Was manufactured on or after October 1, 1988; and
- (4) Was installed on the vessel on or before March 11, 1996.

(g) Until February 1, 1999, a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Type Accepted VHF-FM Class C EPIRB may be used to meet the requirement for an EPIRB on a vessel operating on a Great Lakes route under §117.64 of this part, if the EPIRB;

- (1) Is operable; and
- (2) Was installed on the vessel on or before March 11, 1996.

(h) Until March 11, 1997 an existing vessel on a limited coastwise route need not comply with §117.64 of this part.

(i) An existing vessel need not comply with §117.78(a)(4) of this part.

(j) An existing vessel must comply with either §117.210 of this part or with the regulations for rescue boats that were in effect for the vessel prior to March 11, 1996.

[CGD 85-080, 61 FR 911, Jan. 10, 1996; 61 FR 24464, May 15, 1996]

#### § 117.25 Additional requirements.

(a) Each item of lifesaving equipment carried on board a vessel but not required under this part, must be of an approved type meeting the specifications for lifesaving equipment in sub-

chapter Q of this chapter, or other standard specified by the Commandant.

(b) The cognizant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) may require a vessel to carry specialized or additional lifesaving equipment if:

(1) The OCMI determines the conditions of the voyage render the requirements of this part inadequate; or

(2) The vessel is operated in Arctic, Antarctic, or other severe conditions not covered under this part.

### Subpart B—Emergency Communications

#### § 117.64 Emergency Position Indicating Radiobeacons (EPIRB).

Each vessel that operates on the high seas, or that operates beyond three miles from the coastline of the Great Lakes, must have on board an FCC Type Accepted Category 1, 406 MHz EPIRB, installed to automatically float free and activate.

[CGD 85-080, 61 FR 911, Jan. 10, 1996; 61 FR 20556, May 7, 1996]

#### § 117.68 Distress flares and smoke signals.

(a) *Oceans, coastwise, limited coastwise, and Great Lakes routes.* A vessel on an oceans, coastwise, limited coastwise, or Great Lakes route must carry—

(1) Six hand red flare distress signals approved in accordance with §160.021 in subchapter Q of this chapter, or other standard specified by the Commandant; and

(2) Six hand orange smoke distress signals approved in accordance with §160.037 in subchapter Q of this chapter, or other standard specified by the Commandant.

(b) *Lakes, bays, and sounds, and rivers routes.* A vessel on a lakes, bays, and sounds, or rivers route must carry:

(1) Three hand red flare distress signals approved in accordance with §160.021 in subchapter Q of this chapter, or other standard specified by the Commandant; and

(2) Three hand orange smoke distress signals approved in accordance with §160.037 in subchapter Q of this chapter, or other standard specified by the Commandant.

(c) *Substitutions.* (1) A rocket parachute flare approved in accordance