

RCC Marine Transport Working Group: Life Saving Appliances Work Plan

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Preamble Text:

Canada and the U.S. are in the process of developing a "Consolidated North American Standard" for lifejackets, with an aim to ultimately align with ISO (International Organization for Standards) standards.

Timelines and Deliverables:

Action Plan Initiative	Move to a common standard for lifejackets and consider developing mutual recognition arrangements for other marine safety equipment.			
Deliverable outcome	In addition to the continuing efforts to develop a Consolidated North American Standard for lifejackets, Canada and the U.S. will examine the possibility of establishing a form of recognition for other marine safety equipment (lifesaving equipment, and fire protection equipment and materials), similar to the one negotiated between the U.S. and the European Union.			
Action items	Action Item 1: Develop harmonized North American standard for lifejackets.	Action Item 2: Develop implementation plan to approve lifejackets to the new standard.	Action Item 3: Develop mutually agreed procedures for accreditation of testing laboratories.	Action Item 4: Establish a bilateral cooperative framework to ensure continued alignment.
	Interim Deliverables			
3-6 Months	Frame elements of agreement and agree on joint work plan.	Evaluate existing regulations and identify necessary regulatory revisions.	Frame elements of mutual agreement to allow labs to be accredited in accordance with the standard and any other applicable requirements.	Identify scope and elements of regulatory alignment mechanism/cooperation framework.
6-12 Months	Draft joint standard taking into account current industry practices and harmonizing with ISO requirements, wherever feasible.	Coordinate with stakeholders to develop plan to transition to new standard.	Harmonize lab accreditation and oversight procedures to ensure testing is always performed in accordance with the established procedures.	Develop proposals and options for such an alignment mechanism/cooperation framework.

<p>12-18 Months</p>	<p>Circulate draft standard to relevant industry stakeholders & resolve any outstanding comments.</p>	<p>Notify relevant stakeholders of details of implementation plan.</p>	<p>Develop joint implementation plan to accredit labs.</p>	<p>Reach agreement on the alignment mechanism as appropriate and initiate any required legislative, regulatory, policy and procedural amendments. Develop implementation plan.</p>
<p>Beyond 18 Months</p>	<p>Publish standard.</p>	<p>Execute implementation plan and initiate formal regulatory revision process.</p>	<p>Implement laboratory oversight program.</p>	<p>Conduct necessary pilots to test key aspects. Adjust mechanism as necessary. Launch mechanism, if complete. Use mechanism to develop framework in pursuance of a reciprocity agreement with the U.S. regarding lifesaving equipment.</p>

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