



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations
Marine Operations Center
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VESSEL INSPECTION BULLETIN 05-10

Fast Rescue Boat (FRB) self-inflating mechanism safety pin

1. BACKGROUND:

Several NOAA ships are carrying FRB's with CO₂ powered self-righting inflation bags. These devices are fitted with "safety pins" at the control head that prevent inadvertent activation of the inflation bag. It has been discovered that in numerous instances, the FRB's are being operated with the safety pin in place, therefore making the inflation bag inoperable.

2. DISCUSSION:

The self-righting inflation bags are part of a SOLAS requirement that re-rights a capsized vessel without the assistance of the crew. Vessels not equipped with powered self-righting inflation bags have a requirement to be able to be re-righted with not more than two crewmembers.

This bulletin applies only to FRB's with self-righting inflation bags powered by CO₂ or other gas stored in a high pressure bottle.

3. ACTION:

Effective immediately, all NOAA Small Boats equipped with CO₂ powered self-righting inflation bags shall consult the FRB operator's manual to locate and indentify the safety pin on the inflation mechanism.

All FRB operators shall be made aware of the safety pin and its purpose. This pin is only installed on the firing head when the bottle is being transported, or if you are carrying out any service work to the system. It is a failsafe system so that the bottle cannot be accidentally fired. It must be removed after servicing and before the vessel is placed back into service to ensure successful operation when needed.

In all circumstances the FRB Operators manual will be consulted for the exact procedure for insertion and removal of the safety pin.

4. REFERENCES:



This is an example of a firing head safety pin. Other manufacturers' configurations may differ.

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