



Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office

Bulletin 11-09

Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's)

The 15 September 2008 Safety Manual (Yellow Book) is now in effect for most new contracts and government operations. Please note the change for personal floatation devices as stated below.

05.J.02 Automatic-Inflatable PFDs Type V or better, USCG approved for Commercial Use, may be worn by workers in lieu of inherently buoyant PFDs (See conditions 05.J.01.a-e above), provided the following criteria are met:

- PFDs are worn only by workers over 16 years of age and those who weigh 90 lb (40.8 kg) or more;
- An AHA must be performed for this activity;
- PFDs must be inspected, maintained, stowed and used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (currently not intended to be used in areas of heavy construction or maintenance or where hot work (welding, brazing, cutting, soldering, etc.) is to be performed;
- PFDs shall provide a 30-pound minimum buoyancy postdeployment;
- USACE employees shall comply with USACE's Auto-Inflatable Personal Flotation Device, Standards of Use Procedures, dated 1 July 2007.
- The USCG-approval for auto-inflatable PFD's is contingent upon the PFD being worn, not stowed. All auto-inflatable PFDs must be worn at all times drowning hazard exists.

