Life Saving Appliances

Presentation to RCC Stakeholder Dialogue Session
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Overview

Transport Canada and the U.S. Coast Guard are collaborating on the development of a harmonized lifejacket standard.

This would:

• Align better with international standards
• Allow both U.S. and Canada to manufacture and market lifejackets in both countries
• Offer greater selection throughout North America
• Enlarge the market therefore creating greater innovation
• Set the groundwork for alignment of future standards and regulations for other lifesaving equipment

The initiative is a four point action plan and is due for implementation on September 2013.
Overview – Action Plan

Four key steps are included in the Action Plan:

1) The development of a harmonized North American standard for lifejackets

2) An implementation plan to approve lifejackets to the new standard

3) The development of mutually agreed procedures for accreditation of testing laboratories

4) The creation of a bilateral cooperative framework to ensure continued alignment
1. Develop harmonized North American standard for lifejackets

- Underwriter Laboratories (UL) - an Accredited Standards Development in both Canada and the United States - is now overseeing the consensus standard development process

- Standard now being completed as UL12402 based on ISO 12402

- Comments on the last draft are being reviewed and the standard will go to final ballot as soon as comments are resolved and labelling finalized
2. Develop implementation plan to approve lifejackets to the new standard

- Implementation plan presented to stakeholders in Canada at CMAC in April
- Briefed the Personal Floatation Device Manufacturers Association (PFDMA) on the principles of transition plan at the PFDMA Annual Conference June 2013
- TCMSS and USCG proposing to continue to accept lifejackets approved to existing standards in their own countries
- Lifejackets approved to the harmonized standard will be accepted in both countries
- If significant changes are made to existing approvals they will be re-assessed under the new standard
- It is anticipated that market influences will eventually transition the majority of products to the common standard
3. Develop mutually agreed procedures for accreditation of testing laboratories

- TCMSS accepts testing and certification conducted by third parties accredited by the national accreditation body, Standards Council of Canada, in a process similar to international procedures.

- USCG issues lifejacket approvals directly using testing laboratories meeting their requirements.

- TCMSS and USCG are working to create an agreement on the recognition of accreditation processes.
4. Establish a bilateral cooperative framework to ensure continued alignment

- Continuous alignment on the standard is now possible with the dual accreditation of one Standards Development Organization

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is proposed to describe the high-level agreement for "dual-certified" personal flotation devices which includes periodic coordination meetings
Process for the next three months for ongoing alignment work

The following work remains outstanding for the Work Plan:

**Action item 1** - Comments on the last draft are being reviewed and the standard will go to final ballot as soon as comments are resolved and labelling finalized

**Action items 2** – Complete final details of the agreement for implementation. Implementation of the standard will commence as soon as test laboratories are prepared to test to the new standard

**Action items 3** – USCG and TCMSS are continuing to work toward an agreement regarding the approval process

**Action item 4** - Complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a framework for ongoing alignment
Next steps and key issues

• Stakeholder input at Canadian Marine Advisory Council Meeting (CMAC) – Ottawa Fall 2013

• Expansion of Canadian involvement in future Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards development

• Finalizing agreements for mutual acceptance of procedures for certification and testing

• Finalizing the MOU for ongoing alignment
Questions?