

SAFETY FACT SHEET

DEFINITIONS:

Immersion Suit: often called a Survival Suit, is a special type of waterproof dry suit that protects the wearer if required to abandon ship in rough, cold water. They must be certified by Transport Canada and designed to not only keep the person warm, but also keep them afloat and in a position to search for help. The wearer should be able to put it on themselves in under two minutes. If it's properly fitted and zippered then water can't come in and the wearer will be protected from hypothermia.

Anti-exposure Work Suit: a protective suit designed for use by rescue boat crews and marine evacuation system parties. They are Internationally orange in colour, highly visible, constructed with waterproof materials that does not sustain burning, provides inherent buoyancy of at least 70 N, covers the whole body with the exception of the head and hands, and can be unpacked and put on without assistance within two minutes.

CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS:

As summarized from the Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations (Section 3.28): https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C.R.C.,_c._1486.pdf

- a) Any fishing vessel on any voyage such that any part of that voyage is **beyond 25 nautical miles** from a nearest shore, in Canadian waters or beyond, must have on board an Immersion Suit of an appropriate size for each person on board.
- b) A fishing vessel of **more than 12 metres** (39'4") in hull length on a voyage that remains **within 25 nautical miles** from shore, if the water temperature is less than 15°C, must have on board an Immersion Suit or Anti-Exposure Work Suit of an appropriate size for each person on board.
- c) A fishing vessel of **not more than 12 metres** (39'4") in hull length on a voyage that remains **within 25 nautical miles** from shore or on any waters identified as Sheltered Waters* is required to have an Immersion Suit or Anti-Exposure Work Suit of an appropriate size for each person on board if a Life Raft is not carried on board the vessel.
- d) A fishing vessel on a voyage that is on waters identified as Sheltered Waters* may carry on board appliances, or written procedures, for protecting all persons on board from the effects of hypothermia or cold shock resulting from swamping, capsizing or falling overboard, in place of an Immersion Suit or Anti-Exposure Work Suit for each person.

* NOTE: Sheltered Waters are defined and users should make sure the waters they operate in are indeed identified as Sheltered Waters prior to considering substituting equipment or determining if specific equipment is required. Should you need further assistance on determining if your body of water is considered Sheltered Waters, please contact your nearest Transport Canada Marine Safety & Security Office - <https://tc.canada.ca/en/corporate-services/atlantic-region>

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. If Immersion Suits or Anti-exposure Work Suits are carried on board the Fishing Vessel (as required by a regulation or voluntarily) then the following will apply:
 - a) Every Immersion Suit or Anti-exposure Work Suit shall bear a mark or label indicating that it is of a type approved by the Minister (of Transport).
Immersion Suit - CAN/CGSB-65.16-2005 or MSC.81 (70)
Anti-exposure Work Suit - CAN/CGSB-65.21-95 or MSC.81(70)
-- Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations, Section 3.19(1)

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IMMERSION SUITS

- b) Safety equipment required by these Regulations shall
- i) be in good working order;
 - ii) be readily accessible and available for immediate use; and
 - iii) except for a life raft, be maintained and replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or recommendations.

2. In 2000 Transport Canada issued a Ship Safety Bulletin (SSB 11/2000) addressing two issues that have been encountered with inspection of Immersion Suits:

- a) **Maintenance and Donning** - Immersion suits should be maintained on board as per manufacturer's instructions (e.g., storage, zipper lubrication, etc.). Boat and fire drills afford an opportunity for crew to practice donning their immersion suits to ensure that they are of an appropriate size and the zippers are properly lubricated.

MAINTENANCE

- Visual periodic examination for signs of water.
- Lubricate zippers with bee's wax or paraffin.
- Check expiry on light.
- If used, rinse in fresh water.
- Allow to dry before storage, away from direct heat and sunlight.

DONNING

- Remove from protective bag.
- Roll out immersion suit on deck and sit on it.
- Insert legs, kneel before standing till your arms are in and pull cap over your head.
- Make sure the suit is properly donned and zipper all the way up.
- Put on gloves.
- Ensure all is secure.

- b) **Repairs and Alterations** - Any alterations or repairs to approved marine immersion suits shall be conducted by the manufacturer, an agent authorized by the manufacturer, or in the event that the manufacturer has ceased production and is no longer in business, any other manufacturer of an approved suit system who can demonstrate that they are capable of undertaking such repairs to the satisfaction of the approval authority (Transport Canada).

3. **Testing and Servicing Intervals** vary based on the Immersion Suit Sales and Servicing Providers. Some recommend testing and service intervals of their Immersion Suit products should not exceed 3 years until the Suit is 10 years old then tested each year after that. Others recommend testing of their products every 2 years and after the suit is 5 years old then tested each year after that.

(NOTE: proof of testing should be available when visited by a TCMSS Inspector)

4. **Leasing/Rental of Immersion Suits** - Not all Immersion Suit Sales and Service Providers have a leasing or rental program. It is a service not commonly used in the fishing industry but tends to be utilized by companies or contractors that require Immersion Suits for short periods of time to fulfil a marine workplace safety requirement. Rental costs vary from Company to Company and there are conditions and some service fees.

BENEFITS

- Provides thermal protection.
- Highly visible and buoyant.
- Keeps you dry.

STORAGE

- Lay flat, zipper fully open.
- Roll from feet to head.
- Fold arms over, place in bag.
- Store in cool / dry area.
- Easily accessible.

NOTE: This Fact Sheet is being provided for information purposes only and requirements should be confirmed with a local Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security Inspector before making any modifications to a vessel or purchases of safety equipment. Some information provided on Regulatory Requirements and/or Carriage Requirements may be edited, summarized or somewhat generalized for the purpose of this Fact Sheet or for space in the document. Please refer to the Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations and any other Regulations referenced for full text