§ 28.270 Instruction, drills, and safety orientation.

(a) Drills and instruction. The master or individual in charge of each vessel must ensure that drills are conducted and instruction is given to each individual on board at least once each month. Instruction may be provided in conjunction with drills or at other times and places provided it ensures that each individual is familiar with their duties and their responses to at least the following contingencies:

(1) Abandoning the vessel;
(2) Fighting a fire in different locations on board the vessel;
(3) Recovering an individual from the water;
(4) Minimizing the effects of unintentional flooding;
(5) Launching survival craft and recovering lifeboats and rescue boats;
(6) Donning immersion suits and other wearable personal flotation devices;
(7) Donning a fireman’s outfit and a self-contained breathing apparatus, if the vessel is so equipped;
(8) Making a voice radio distress call and using visual distress signals;
(9) Activating the general alarm; and
(10) Reporting inoperative alarm systems and fire detection systems.

(b) Participation in drills. Drills must be conducted on board the vessel as if there were an actual emergency and must include participation by all individuals on board, breaking out and using emergency equipment, testing of all alarm and detection systems, donning protective clothing, and donning immersion suits, if the vessel is so equipped.

(c) Training. No individual may conduct the drills or provide the instructions required by this section unless that individual has been trained in the proper procedures for conducting the activity.

(d) The viewing of videotapes concerning at least the contingencies listed in paragraph (a) of this section, whether on board the vessel or not, followed by a discussion led by an individual familiar with these contingencies will satisfy the requirement for instruction but not the requirement for drills in paragraph (b) of this section or for the safety orientation in paragraph (e) of this section.

(e) Safety orientation. The master or individual in charge of a vessel must ensure that a safety orientation is given to each individual on board that has not received the instruction and has not participated in the drills required by paragraph (a) of this section before the vessel may be operated.
§ 28.300 Applicability and general requirements.

Each commercial fishing industry vessel which has its keel laid or is at a similar stage of construction, or which undergoes a major conversion completed on or after September 15, 1991, and that operates with more than 16 individuals on board, must comply with the requirements of this subpart in addition to the requirements of subparts A, B, and C of this part.

§ 28.305 Lifesaving and signaling equipment.

Each vessel to which this subpart applies must meet the requirements for life preservers, immersion suits, ring life buoys, distress signals, and survival craft in §§ 28.110, 28.115, 28.145 and table 28.120 (a), (b), or (c), as appropriate for the vessel type, on the date that its construction or major conversion is completed.

§ 28.275 Acceptance criteria for instructors and course curricula.

(a) A Fishing Vessel Safety Instructor shall submit a detailed course curriculum that relates directly to the contingencies listed in §28.270(a), or a letter certifying the use of the “Personal Survival and Emergency Drills Course,” a national standard curriculum, to the cognizant OCMI. This document can be ordered through the U.S. Marine Safety Association (USMSA), 5050 Industrial Road, Farmingdale, NJ 07727; telephone: (732) 751–0182; fax: (732) 751–0508; or e-mail: usmsa@usmsa.org. For the criteria of Fishing Vessel Safety Instructor, the following documentation shall be provided to the cognizant OCMI:

(1) Proof of at least 1 year of experience in a marine related field and experience that relates directly to the contingencies listed in §28.270(a) including—

(i) Experience as an instructor; or
(ii) Training received in instructional methods.

(2) A valid merchant mariner’s license issued by the Coast Guard authorizing service as master of uninspected fishing industry vessels and proof of experience that relates directly to the contingencies listed in 46 CFR 28.270(a) including—

(i) Experience as an instructor; or
(ii) Training received in instructional methods.

(3) A valid merchant mariner’s license issued by the Coast Guard authorizing service as a master of inspected vessels of 100 gross tons or more and proof of experience that relates directly to the contingencies listed in 46 CFR 28.270(a) including—

(i) Experience as an instructor; or
(ii) Training received in instructional methods.

(b) Each OCMI will issue a letter of acceptance to all qualified individuals and will maintain a list of accepted instructors in his/her zone.

(c) Letters of acceptance shall be valid for a period of 5 years.

(d) Fishing Vessel Safety Instructors or the organization providing training shall issue documents to Fishing Vessel Drill Conductors upon successful completion of all required training.