

Revere Vests Meet USCG Requirements for Type II, Type III

The U.S. Coast Guard's certification of inflatable PFDs has evolved over the four years since our last full-blown test of these devices. At that time, inflatable vests approved by the Coast Guard were classified as Type V special-purpose devices and given performance classifications of either Type II or III.

The Coast Guard allowed automatic-inflating vests providing at least 35 pounds of buoyancy to display and advertise Type II performance. Manual-only vests were limited to a Type III performance rating no matter how much buoyancy they had, though 22 pounds was the minimum. To maintain these classifications

and ratings, the user was required to wear the vest at all times while aboard ship. The bottom line was that any Type V inflatable must be worn to count as a life jacket.

Since then, the Coast Guard has started to approve some inflatable PFDs as Type II or III flotation aids. That means they do not have to be worn to count in a vessel's total life jacket inventory.

Two of the PFDs in this test meet this standard. The Revere 61018 is certified as a Type III, and the Revere 61019 is certified as a Type II. In our opinion, this certification adds considerable value to these two vests.