



Bridge Memorandum #18: New Company Policy for Inflatable PFDs as Work Vests

The use of inflatable PFDs has caused considerable issues with clients and present several safety concerns. The main one is that the PFDs observed on TDI vessels are rated for recreational use only. The CO2 cartridges are not regularly inspected and corrode quickly in a salt water environment. In at least one case, the cartridge had gone off undetected and continued to be used.

For this reason, TDI has instituted a company policy regarding the use of inflatable PFDs for use as work vests.

If a TDI employee wishes to use his/ her own personal inflatable PFD, it must be a USCG approved Type V vest with a whistle and strobe or other emergency light. The employee must demonstrate to the Master of the vessel and the Party Chief that the PFD is in good condition with a full, in date CO2 cartridge prior to the vessel sailing.

Personal PFDs may not be stored on the vessels. When the employee rotates off the vessel, he/she must take the inflatable PFD off the vessel. From now on, any unattended inflatable PFDs found onboard TDI vessels will be removed from the vessel and disposed of.

TDI does supply adequate type V Billy Pugh PFDs for all personnel on its vessels, as well as Type I PFDs.

Dr. James Howell

HSE Manager