LIFERAFT PERIODIC SERVICING

Typical Inspection Procedures

• The container or valise is visually inspected for damage.
• The container is opened and the liferaft is removed for inspection.
• The high pressure inflation gas cylinder is removed for later inspection and weighing.
• A detailed inspection is performed while unfolding the liferaft to identify any damage or deterioration of fabric or adhesive.
• The liferaft is filled with dry compressed air to its proper inflation pressure. The pressure relief valves are tested at this time to confirm proper operation.
• The liferaft is further inflated to stretch the fabric prior to commencing the specified leak test on each tube. During the pre-stretch, the fabric and seams are again inspected for any signs of deterioration. All attachments are also inspected at this time.
• The air chambers are then pressure tested for the specified time. The pressure is recorded at the beginning of the test and checked again at the end of the specified time. The end pressure is adjusted for temperature change. The end pressure is recorded and checked for loss.
• The equipment packs are checked during the pressure test period. Dated items are replaced only if they have reached their stamped expiration dates. The inflation gas cylinder is inspected at this time for damage, hydrostatic test date and is then weighed. The lighting system and raft attachments are checked during the pressure testing period.
• USCG/SOLAS commercial liferafts must undergo additional testing after ten years of service. These tests include a Necessary Additional Pressure Test (NAP) and a floor seam test. At five year intervals, liferafts must also undergo a Gas Inflation Test which is an operational test of the liferaft’s inflation system.
• The liferaft is then reassembled and repacked according to manufacturer specifications. The firing cable for the inflation system is attached to the painter line, making the life raft fully operational.
• Container gaskets or seals are replaced and container straps are installed. Valises are sealed or laced. All labels are inspected and replaced as required.

• All test results, repairs and renewals are recorded on the service inspection report. Documentation is kept on file at the service facility as required. Government and manufacturer certificates are issued and the owner is notified that the liferaft is ready to return to service.

Additional equipment may be packed in your liferaft – such as an EPIRB or small personal necessities – if space permits. Consult with your service technician.

Cost of Service

The total fee to service your liferaft includes:

• Base service fee
• Items replaced or serviced
• Required documentation

Only after opening the liferaft, evaluating its general condition and identifying the replacement items can we estimate your total service fee.

Checklist of Dated Items

Listed below are items that may add to the total inspection fee.

• Hand flares – 3 years
• Parachute flares – 3 years
• Smoke Signals – 3 years
• Repair cement – 1 year
• Batteries, flashlight – 1 year
• Batteries, interior/exterior lights
• First aid kit
• Food rations – 5 years
• Drinking water – 5 years

Other Possible Fees

• Manufacturer’s certificates
• Gaskets and seals
• Bursting straps
• Vacuum bags
• CO₂ cylinder testing & refilling
• Hydrostatic releases
• Labels
• Five-year tests
• Necessary Additional Pressure Test
• Floor seam test

This is a general guide and may or may not apply to your liferaft. Ask for a more detailed description of the service performed if you have any questions.