

Uniforms vs Boat Crew Equipment

Myth: Auxiliarists cannot wear items marked "USCG"

We have certain uniform items that are prescribed (nametags, collar devices, etc.) which are distinctly Auxiliary in their nature. When worn on a uniform, they distinguish us from USCG. USCG materials may not be worn in lieu of prescribed items of uniform wear. Policy on Auxiliary uniforms (including hats) is found in the Auxiliary Manual (COMDTINST M16790.1F).

We have a lot of equipment we wear/use for surface operations. We are required to follow the Coast Guard Rescue & Survival Systems Manual (COMDTINST M10470.10E) for much of what is required. For the Coast Guard, the Uniform Regulations Manual (COMDTINST M1020.6E) explicitly defers to the Rescue & Survival Systems manual for this equipment.

We are authorized to be issued most current Coast Guard required boat crew equipment (examples: MSD900 suit) at the choice and expense of the issuing unit. Any of this material might be branded "USCG", or might have been purchased by the unit specifically for the Auxiliary (and might be branded "USCG Auxiliary" at their choice). In many cases, surplus work suits have been transferred to the Auxiliary from decommissioned vessels or other CG sources. This equipment would be branded "USCG". We are also authorized to borrow required equipment from Coast Guard units at the discretion of the unit. Again, all this equipment might be branded "USCG". We are authorized to use such equipment, but we do not own this equipment.

Some Auxiliarists purchase required boat crew equipment (most if not all purchase their own PFD, for example). If the Auxiliarist purchases the equipment, it must be branded for the Auxiliary ("USCG Auxiliary").

The clear distinction is: Coast Guard owned boat crew equipment (and issued through some path to an Auxiliarist) might be branded "USCG", and is authorized for wear/use when required by Coast Guard operational policy. Such equipment is not owned by the Auxiliarist or the Auxiliary unit, and must be returned when the Auxiliarist departs the Auxiliary or is no longer certified in the operational activity. Auxiliarist-owned equipment may only be branded "USCG Auxiliary".

Links (as of 1/3/05):

Auxiliary Manual (also available on Chief DIRAUX site)

http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/directives/CIM/CIM_16790_1F.pdf

Uniform Regulations

http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/directives/CIM/CIM_1020_6E.pdf

Rescue & Survival Systems Manual

http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/directives/CIM/CIM_10470_10E.pdf