

# Life Preserver PMS Is a Major Fleet Problem!

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Since reporting to the Naval Safety Center and conducting safety surveys aboard more than a hundred ships, I can say without reservation the track record for shipboard life preserver PMS is disgusting. God forbid that someday we might need to use some of the life preservers I've seen.

Following are some of the major discrepancies I usually find on each indicated type of life preservers.

## **MK1 (Float coats—the MK1 is an authorized replacement for the MK5 AIULP)**

- Chemical pill actuator not showing green (green is good but red is dead)
- Wire on actuator assemblies (CO<sub>2</sub> or pill-type) too thick to break
- Oral inflation tubes not glued in bladder
- Actuator assemblies and CO<sub>2</sub> bottles missing

## **MK5 (Green Auto-Inflatable Utility Life Preserver, or AIULP)**

- Wire on actuator assemblies too thick to break
- Oral inflation tubes not glued in bladder
- Modification straps missing on each side of bladder
- Actuator assembly and CO<sub>2</sub> bottles missing.

## **Kapok**

- Whistles and personnel marker lights in the wrong locations, painted/torn/soiled outer covers

## **CO<sub>2</sub> inflatable (abandon-ship-type with pouch, and known as rubber ducky or Mae West)**

- Numerous steps on MRCs typically and routinely not performed on preservers. A glaring lack of attention-to-detail was found on the majority of inspected life preservers.

Neither the blue or the green “Mustang” foul-weather jacket is authorized for use as a life preserver!

I strongly recommend the next time scheduled PMS on the life preservers comes due, you pay close attention to your maintenance personnel so they complete that PMS.

For life preserver maintenance and care questions, contact me or Mr. Mark Campbell at the Naval Sea Systems Command (Code SEA-05L4), at (202) 781-3619 (DSN prefix 326). His e-mail is [Campbellmr@navsea.navy.mil](mailto:Campbellmr@navsea.navy.mil).

NSTM 077 (Personnel Protective Equipment) and the associated MIP for each type of life preserver are your references. If you have any questions pertaining to other deck issues, please contact me. 🌐

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\*Items attached to auto-inflatable utility life preserver and stowed inside protective casing

### **Auto-inflatable utility life preserver (not inflated)**



\*Distress marker light or personnel marker light

### **(Kapok) Inherently buoyant vest-type life preserver with collar**