

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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06/06/97

Mr. Phil Jenkins
US Marine
PO Box 9029
Everett, WA 98206

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

This is in response to your Fax of April 4, 1997 and your telephone conversation with Mr. Peter Eikenberry of my staff regarding policy on Marine Sanitation Devices. You asked if installing multiple switches which have to be purposefully activated to enable the overboard discharge pump on a holding tank is an adequate means of securing the system, and meets the intent of 33 CFR 159.53(c), that is, "be designed to prevent the overboard discharge of treated or untreated sewage or any waste derived from sewage (Type III)".

In Mr. Donald J. Kerlin's letter of February 5, 1995 he stated "...I believe that for recreational boats an electric pump can be adequately disabled to comply with this part of the regulation." Mr. Kerlin was then the Chief of the Recreational Boating Product Assurance Division. I concur with this conclusion and I believe that the system you have installed to prevent the overboard discharge of sewage meets this requirement.

I have forwarded an information copy of this letter to the Office of Operating and Environmental Standards (G-MSO).

If you have any questions concerning this or any other boating safety subject, please contact Mr. Peter Eikenberry at (202) 267-6894 **or** the U.S. Coast Guard Customer Infoline at (800) 368-5647. His e-mail address is: **PEikenberry@comdt.uscg.mil.**

Sincerely,

P. J. CAPPEL
Chief, Recreational Boating
Product Assurance Branch
By direction of the Commandant