

Operations Division Policy Memorandum

SUBJECT: Use of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) by Users of District Locks and Dams

1. Purpose: In an ongoing effort to encourage safe use and awareness on area waterways, the Operations Division of the Pittsburgh District Corps of Engineers, will institute the following measures. This memorandum is to establish the policy on use of PFDs by persons transiting the locks and dams of the Pittsburgh District.
2. References:
Memorandum for Commanders, MSC and District Commands, Subject: Life Jacket Mandatory-Wear Policy Selective Expansion, dated 02 May 2012.
3. General: This policy is applicable for the following persons and conditions while transiting the locks:
 - a. Commercial tow boats: All persons on deck of a tow, barges or other objects, engaged in line handling, mooring, training, overseeing, directing or otherwise engaged in the locking process while transiting through the locks are required to wear a PFD. All persons engaged in line handling, mooring, training, overseeing, directing or otherwise engaged in the locking process from the deck of a light boat are required to wear a PFD.
 - b. Commercial Passenger Vessels: All persons engaged in line handling, mooring, or otherwise engaged in the locking process from the deck of a vessel are required to wear a PFD. Any persons working on the passenger vessel that are on deck to train, oversee, direct or otherwise assist in the lockage process are required to wear a PFD.
 - c. Recreational Vessels: All persons on a recreational vessel that are standing, handling lines, fending off, or otherwise engaged in the locking process are required to wear a PFD. All persons on a sit-down type personal water craft or any paddle craft are required to wear a PFD. It is highly recommended and encouraged that all children wear a PFD while locking through.
 - d. The Lockmaster at each facility can choose to enhance or increase these requirements if local conditions or situations are determined to warrant further safety measures.
4. Implementation: This policy is effective as of the date of signing by the Chief, Operations Division, and will remain in effect until superseded.

Kathy M. Griffin
Chief, Operations Division