



16711/Parasail Safety

OCT 27 2010

Mark McCulloh
1065 Maitland Commons Blvd.
Maitland, FL 32751

Dear Mr. McCulloh:

Thank you for your letter dated September 17, 2010 in which you have offered your services to participate in a workgroup to improve commercial parasailing safety. At this time, the Coast Guard has not formally organized a standards development project for parasailing vessels. The Coast Guard recognizes, however, that a number of parasail-related casualties have occurred onboard commercial parasail vessels over the past several months resulting in serious injury or death to the parasail riders.

Although the Coast Guard does not regulate the parasail operations or equipment including the towline, parachute, rider harness or winch assembly, we are very concerned about this issue. We advise parasail owners and operators, commercial and private, to re-inspect their equipment and ensure it is properly maintained to adequately meet all intended uses and operating conditions.

A U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Alert (06-09) was released in September 2009 to remind parasail vessel operators to maintain situational awareness with particular emphasis on weather conditions and advising parasail operators of where to find industry standards for parasail equipment.

The Office of Regulations supports your Petition for Rulemaking and opened a docket to memorialize your request. The Department of Transportation assigned docket number [USCG-1625-0932]. Your letter has been uploaded into this docket.

If you have questions or concerns about this letter, please don't hesitate to contact Lieutenant Jarrod DeWitz of my staff at (202) 372-1219 or Jarrod.M.DeWitz@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. L. Boone".

G. L. BOONE
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Domestic Compliance Division
Office of Vessel Activities
By direction

Copy: Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area (Ap)
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard District Seven (dp)