**USCG INDEPENDENT LABORATORY**

Independent Laboratories conduct initial (approval) and follow-up (production) testing of equipment and materials that require United States Coast Guard (USCG) Approval per 46 CFR 159.010. This includes testing of lifesaving appliances and fire protection equipment and materials.

ABS has been accepted by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) as an independent laboratory to witness production tests and inspections, and supervise prototype construction, where appropriate.

**USCG SERVICE TYPES BY ABS**
- 160010 Buoyant Apparatus
- 160017 Chain Ladders
- 160027 Life Floats for Merchant Vessels
- 160051 Inflatable Liferafts for Domestic Service
- 160062 Hydraulic and Manual Releases for Lifesaving Equipment
- 160115 Launching Appliances-Winches
- 160117 Embarkation Ladder (SOLAS)
- 160118 Rigid Liferafts
- 160132 Launching Appliances-Davits
- 160133 Release Mechanisms for Lifeboats and Rescue Boats (SOLAS)
- 160135 Lifeboats (SOLAS)
- 160151 Inflatable Liferafts (SOLAS)
- 160156 Rescue Boats and Fast Rescue Boats (SOLAS)
- 160162 Hydrostatic Release Units (SOLAS)
- 160170 Liferaft Automatic Release Hooks (SOLAS)
- 160170 Davit-Launched Liferaft Automatic Release Hooks (SOLAS)
- 163002 Pilot Hoists
- 163003 Pilot Ladders

**PRE-APPROVAL PLAN REVIEW PROCESS**

ABS Houston is authorized to perform the pre-approval plan review for non-novel lifesaving launching appliances, under approval series 160115, 160132, 160133, 160135, 160156 for non-novel designs constructed by established manufacturers. A laboratory does not issue the approval; this is completed by the CG-ENG-4 office.

**USCG ACCEPTED LABORATORY**

Our status as an accepted independent laboratory is publicly available at http://cgmix.uscg.mil.

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**Manufacturer submits design package to ABS**

**ABS Engineering technical review**

**Manufacturer conducts approval (prototype) testing with ABS Surveyor and OCMI Representative**

**Manufacturer submits test results to ABS engineering**

**ABS preapproval is issued and documentation submitted to USCG**

**USCG issues Certificate of Approval (COA)**

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**WORLD HEADQUARTERS**

1701 City Plaza Dr  |  Spring, TX 77389 USA  
P 1-281-877-6000  |  F 1-281-877-5976  
ABS-WorldHQ@eagle.org  |  www.eagle.org

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