GENERAL AGREEMENT

ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.94.416

1 November 1994

Special Distribution

(94-2283)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1.	Party to Agreement notifying: **UNITED STATES**
2.	Agency responsible: Coast Guard (54)
3.	Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [ ], 7.3.2 [ ], 7.4.1 [ ], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Inflatable liferafts (HS chapter 8907.10)
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Inflatable Liferafts (32 pages)
6.	Description of content: The administration proposes to completely revise its regulations for the approval and servicing of inflatable liferafts, and to add provisions for the approval of inflatable buoyant apparatus. These changes are intended to implement the 1983 amendments to the International Convention for the safety of life at sea, 1974 (SOLAS 74/83), add provisions for approval of a new "coastal service" liferaft to use on certain uninspected fishing vessels, introduce requirements for the stability of inflatable liferafts, and reduce direct coast guard involvement in liferaft production servicing inspections.
7.	Objective and rationale: This proposal would bring coast guard-approved liferafts into compliance with the international convention for the safety of life at sea, 1974, improve the seaworthiness of approved inflatable liferafts, and increase manufacturer flexibility in scheduling liferaft inspections while reducing the associated burden on coast guard personnel resources.
8.	Relevant documents: 59 FR 52590; 18 October 1994; 46 CFR parts and 159 and 160. Will appear in the Federal Register when adopted.
9.	Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: To be determined
10.	Final date for comments: 15 February 1995
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address and telefax number of other body: