
6-PERSON LIFE RAFT – HARD CASE PACK

BACKGROUND

This product was developed to provide a rugged vacuum-packed life raft system with reduced stowage and maintenance requirements. Current storage for life raft and survival equipment is too bulky in certain aircraft. Vacuum packing to reduce bulk and packing in a hard case for protection provides an attractive alternative for below seat stowage aboard rotary aircraft. The 6-person life raft is currently installed on the Griffon, Buffalo and Chinook aircraft.



6-Person Vacuum Packed Life Raft in Hard Case



Current Packing Configuration aboard CH-146

SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The 6XL life raft consists of two tubular superimposed buoyancy chambers, an inflatable floor to provide thermal insulation to the occupants and an adjustable self-erected canopy which is supported by an inflated arch structure. The complete life raft, with the exception of the floor, is inflated by a charge of CO₂ and nitrogen, stored in a high pressure aluminum cylinder fitted with a Mirada 3000-series operating head. The floor is inflated manually by means of a pump supplied in the equipment bag. The life raft assembly is vacuum-packed to 1 atmosphere. Survival equipment is stowed separately within the hard case.

OPERATION

The life raft container is affixed to the aircraft floor with a 4-point release system and may be removed easily with a single action. The container is taken by a survivor outside the aircraft and manually activated once away from the sinking aircraft. Upon inflation, the survival kit remains attached to the life raft and can be hauled in once the survivors board the life raft.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

Weight reduction and improved reliability due to lightweight cylinder and new operating head. Extended maintenance cycle of three years. Separately packed survival equipment can be readily accessed for inspection and replacement of time-expired items. In-service rafts can be easily retrofitted to this configuration. May be fitted with wheels for easy transportation to and from aircraft.

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TECHNICAL DATA

Service capacity	6 persons
Overboard capacity	9 persons
Outside diameter, lower chamber	7 ft. 3 7/8 in.
Inside diameter, lower chamber	5ft. 6 3/8 in.
O/A height of raft	46 in.
Freeboard of buoyancy tubes	1 ft 7 1/4 in.
Volume of upper tube – 8.21 Ft ³	525 lb. buoyancy
Volume of lower tube – 12.35 Ft ³	803 lb. buoyancy
Displacement of main tubes only	1328 lb.
Maximum effective displacement	4478 lb.
Raft Weight	54 lb.
Packed valise size	14.5" x 26" x 9"
Stowage Temperature Limit	-25°C to 50°C -13°F to 122°F
Service Life Limit	Indefinite; except aluminum cylinder: 15 years.
Service Cycle - Life Raft Assembly	three (3) years
Service Cycle – Inflation Valve	seven (7) years
Service Cycle - Compressed Gas Cylinder	five (5) years
EPIRB Type	EPIRB Not Included

STANDARD RAFT EQUIPMENT

The following items of standard equipment are fitted to the life raft: Lifelines, Righting Strap, Footstep Ladder, Hauling-in-Line, Sea lights, Floating Knife, Rescue Line and Quoit, Anchorage Patches, Drogue and Line, Equipment Bag c/w Pump, Leak Stoppers, Repair Clamps, Sponge, Handbook.

SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT

A valise container is provided to accommodate the full complement of DND survival equipment normally provided for six-person life raft. The survival kit valise can be removed and maintained separately without compromising the life raft vacuum pack.