



## This is a guide to the equipment standards and requirements that apply to class 3B vessels under the National Law.

### It consists of two parts:

Part 1 – Safety Equipment and EPIRBs – (NSCV C7A and C7B sections relating to EPIRBs)

Part 2 – Other equipment – (NSCV C1, C4, C5B, C7B, C7C and C7D)

| Vessel type   | Safety equipment & EPIRBs | Other equipment  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| <b>New</b>  | Part 1                    | Part 2   |
| <b>Transitional</b>   | Part 1                    | Part 2   |
| <b>Existing</b> vessels operating before 1 July 2013            | Part 1                    | The standards that applied to the vessel on 30 June 2013.  |
| <b>Existing</b> vessels <b>not</b> operating before 1 July 2013 | Part 1                    | The standards that applied at the time of design approval. |

**‘New’, ‘transitional’ and ‘existing’ vessels are defined in section 22 of Marine Order 503.**

*NOTE: Existing vessels should continue to carry equipment as previously required (apart from safety equipment), and may also choose to carry the “other equipment” in Part 2.*

This equipment guide is general in nature and may not apply to your individual circumstances. Factors including the application of Exemption 02 and whether the vessel was an existing commercial vessel before 1 July 2013, may mean that different equipment standards apply to your vessel. Vessel owners should confirm on a case by case basis that they carry the required equipment for the vessels particular circumstances and operations for which they are engaged.

**Vessels 500 GT and over surveyed under NSCV must also comply with the requirements in Marine Order 25.**

### Glossary

|             |  |                  |   |
|-------------|--|------------------|---|
| <b>nm</b>   | nautical miles   | <b>ECS</b>       | Electronic Chart System                         |
| <b>NSCV</b> | National Standard for Commercial Vessels   | <b>ECDIS</b>     | Electronic Chart and Display Information System |
| <b>m</b>    | measured length in metres  | <b>GNSS</b>      | Global Navigation Satellite System              |
| <b>100%</b> | for total complement of vessel (maximum number of passengers and crew permitted) | <b>GT</b>        | Gross Tonnage                                   |
| <b>AIS</b>  | Automatic Identification System  | <b>LCS</b>       | Limited Coast Station                           |
| <b>All</b>  | refers to vessels of any length in that class                                    | <b>MO</b>        | Marine Order                                    |
|             |  | <b>PA System</b> | Public Address System                           |

### Further Information

For a copy of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels, please visit [www.amsa.gov.au](http://www.amsa.gov.au) or alternatively, contact AMSA on 02 6279 5000 or email: [amsaconnect@amsa.gov.au](mailto:amsaconnect@amsa.gov.au)

## Part 1 – Safety equipment and EPIRBs

### FOR NEW, TRANSITIONAL AND EXISTING CLASS 3B VESSELS

| Items required   | Vessels affected  |
|--|---|
| <b>Liferafts and rescue boats</b>  |   |
| Inflatable Coastal liferafts for 100% complement   | <25m  |
| Survival craft and rescue boats  | ≥25m as required by sections 33 to 35 of MO25   |
| Anti-exposure suit of appropriate size for 100% rescue boat crew   | ≥25m and continuously engaged on voyages in operational areas with a monthly mean water temperature of 15°C or less |
| <b>Lifebuoys</b><br>Each lifebuoy assumed to support 2 persons.  |   |
| 8 minimum: 2 with self-activating lights and smoke signals, 2 with self-activating lights and 2 with buoyant lines   | ≥60m  |
| 6 minimum: 2 with self-activating lights and smoke signals, 1 with self-activating light and 2 with buoyant lines  | ≥45m <60m   |
| 4 minimum: 2 with self-activating lights and smoke signals and 2 with buoyant lines  | ≥25m <45m   |
| 2 minimum: 1 with self-activating light and 1 with buoyant line  | ≥15m <25m   |
| 1 minimum with self-activating light   | <15m  |
| <b>Lifejackets</b><br>New and transitional vessels must comply with the <b>type</b> and <b>quantity</b> of lifejackets listed below.<br>Existing vessels must comply with the <b>type</b> of lifejackets listed below when lifejackets are acquired or replaced.<br>Existing vessels must comply with the <b>quantity</b> of lifejackets listed below. |   |
| Adult SOLAS lifejacket with self-activating light for 100%, Plus child size SOLAS lifejacket with self-activating light for each child under 32kg or 10% of all passengers, whichever is greater   | All   |
| <b>Distress signals – pyrotechnics</b>   |   |
| 6 Parachute distress rockets   | All   |
| 4 Red hand-held flares   | All   |
| 2 Hand-held orange smoke signals   | All   |
| <b>Onboard communications and alarm systems</b>  |   |
| General emergency alarm system   | ≥25m  |
| 2 Battery operated torches   | All   |
| <b>Medical Supplies</b> as per NSCV Subsection C7A   |   |
| Scale E Medication and Medical equipment and one or more Scale F First Aid Kits  | All   |

| Items required  | Vessels affected   |
|---|--|
| <b>Distress signals – EPIRBs</b>  |  |
| All vessels operating >2nm seaward from land require an EPIRB that is registered with AMSA.<br>(NOTE – this is in addition to any EPIRB carried as part of a liferaft or survival craft.) |  |
| <b>From 1 January 2021:</b><br>A float-free EPIRB<br>(a water-activated EPIRB in a float-free bracket)  | ≥12m; or<br>≥7.5m to <12m without level flotation; or<br><7.5m without level flotation, UNLESS all persons on board are wearing a lifejacket AND the vessel's EPIRB is GNSS equipped (e.g. GPS). (In this case the EPIRB does not need to be float-free type.) |
| <b>From 1 January 2021:</b><br>A manually-activated or water-activated EPIRB  | <12m with level flotation  |

## Part 2 – Other equipment

### FOR NEW CLASS 3B VESSELS, AND TRANSITIONAL CLASS 3B VESSELS ONLY

NOTE: vessels in survey prior to NSCV should continue to carry as a minimum the equipment they were required to meet at the time, and/or may choose to (also) carry the below.

| Items required  | Vessels affected  |
|---|---|
| <b>Communication equipment – NSCV C7B</b>   |   |
| Signalling light  | <35m  |
| One set of International Code Flags   | ≥35m  |
| One copy of the International Code of Signals   | ≥35m  |
| Daylight signalling lamp  | ≥35m  |
| VHF Radio (DSC optional but preferred)  | All   |
| Current edition of the “Marine VHF Radio Operators Handbook”  | All ≥7.5m   |
| HF Radio (DSC optional but preferred) or Satellite communication system or Satellite telephone  | All vessels operating outside of LCS / VHF coverage areas       |
| Current edition of the “Marine Radio Operators Handbook”  | All ≥7.5m vessels operating outside of LCS / VHF coverage areas |
| <b>Emergency electrical installation and equipment</b>  |   |
| Self-contained source of electrical power, either a dedicated battery or diesel generator, to provide emergency power to all key systems for 6hrs.<br>(See NSCV Subsection C5B) | ≥125m or ≥500GT   |
| Self-contained source of electrical power, either a dedicated battery or diesel generator, to provide emergency power to all key systems for 3hrs.<br>(See NSCV Subsection C5B) | All other vessels   |
| Emergency lighting (See NSCV Subsection C5B)  | ≥50m or ≥500GT  |

| Items required   | Vessels affected   |
|--|--|
| <b>Navigation equipment</b>  |  |
| Navigation equipment on vessels $\geq 35\text{m}$ must comply with the requirements in MO27          |  |
| Clock (may be included in other navigation equipment)  | <35m   |
| Pair of binoculars   | <35m   |
| Echo sounder   | <35m   |
| Nautical publications  | <35m   |
| ECDIS or ECS or Nautical charts and backup for electronics   | <35m   |
| GNSS   | <35m where plotting equipment (ECDIS, ECS, etc.) is fitted |
| Radar  | <35m   |
| Radar reflector  | <12m   |
| AIS Class B (TX/RX)  | <35m   |
| Speed and distance indicator   | <35m   |
| Compass (card 75mm minimum diameter)   | <10m   |
| Compass (card 100mm minimum diameter)  | $\geq 10\text{m}$ <20m                                     |
| Compass (card 125mm minimum diameter)  | $\geq 20\text{m}$ <35m                                     |
| Communication system to emergency steering   | <35m   |
| Navigation lights, day shapes and flags as per the Prevention of Collision at Sea Regulations (MO30) | All  |
| Sound Signal   | <12m LOA *   |
| Whistle  | $\geq 12\text{m}$ LOA *                                    |
| Bell (300mm minimum diameter)  | $\geq 20\text{m}$ LOA *                                    |
| Gong   | $\geq 100\text{m}$ LOA *                                   |

\* 'length' for the purposes of the sound signals required by COLREGs is Length Overall not measured length as used in the NSCV and vessels Certificate of Survey.

| Items required   | Vessels affected                               |
|--|--|
| <b>Miscellaneous equipment</b>   |  |
| Windlass, anchors and cables (See NSCV Subsection C7D for anchoring requirements)  | All  |
| Sea anchor   | <10m unless capable of anchoring in deep water |
| Hawsers and warps  | All  |
| Logbook (See MO504)  | All  |
| Rudder angle indicator   | ≥15m fitted with power operated steering gear  |
| Collar repair kit and air pump   | All Inflatables/RIBs                           |
| Bilge pumps (see Table 1)  | All  |
| Approved safe means of access (See NSCV Section C1)  | All  |
| <b>Fire fighting equipment</b>   |  |
| Fire fighting equipment requirements are not based on vessel length alone, but are dependent on individual vessel layout, construction materials and operational aspects such as fire risk areas and cargo types etc. It is not practical to summarise all potential requirements in this guidance notice. |  |
| Refer to requirements in table 1 of NSCV C4  | All  |

**Table 1: Bilge pumps**

| Measured Length of vessel | Manual pumps with discharge capacity  |                            | Power pumps with discharge capacity |                            |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                           | Number  | Capacity in kilolitre/hour | Number                              | Capacity in kilolitre/hour |
| <5m                       | Bailing bucket acceptable for open boats provided the bilge is readily accessible |                            |                                     |                            |
| ≥5m <7.5m                 | 1   | 4.0                        |                                     |                            |
| ≥7.5m <10m                | 2   | 4.0                        |                                     |                            |
| ≥10m <12.5m               | 1   | 5.5                        | 1                                   | 5.5                        |
| ≥12.5m <17.5m             | 1   | 5.5                        | 1                                   | 11.0                       |
| ≥17.5m <20m               | 1   | 8.0                        | 1                                   | 11.0                       |
| ≥20m <25m                 | -   | -                          | 2                                   | 11.0                       |
| ≥25m <35m                 | -   | -                          | 2                                   | 15.0                       |