



SOLAS A PACK liferafts equivalent to coastal liferafts

This solution is approved by the National Regulator for the purposes of section 1.6(1) of Part B (General requirements) of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV Part B).

Application

This generic equivalent solution (GES) applies to vessels wishing to use liferafts of capacities exceeding 12 persons in situations where coastal liferafts are required.

Current requirements

Part C, Subsection 7A (safety equipment) of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV Part C7A) establishes the requirements for the design, construction, installation, type and quantity and maintenance of safety equipment onboard Class 1, 2 and 3 domestic commercial vessels.

Clause 5.3 - Safety Equipment to be carried

Clause 5.3 and tables 2, 3 and 4 of NSCV Part C7A indicate that inflatable coastal liferafts are to be provided for vessels <25m operating in B and C waters, unless the vessel meets the level flotation criteria mentioned in Part C, Section 6 of the NSCV (stability). Liferafts are to meet the requirements mentioned NSCV Part C7A Annex D.

Note: Only Class 2 and 3 vessels that are <15m long have an option to meet level flotation criteria in lieu carrying a liferaft.

Annex D– Requirements for inflatable coastal liferafts

Annex D of NSCV Part C7A provides that inflatable coastal liferafts are to meet the following:

D2 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

An inflatable coastal liferaft shall comply with—

- a) the requirements for a Group A liferaft specified in ISO 9650-1; and*
- b) the requirements specified in this Annex.*

Where there is any conflict in requirements between the ISO 9650-1 specifications and this Annex, the requirements in this Annex shall apply.

D3 EQUIPMENT AND RATINGS

An inflatable Coastal liferaft shall be fitted with the following equipment and ratings:

- a) the fittings specified in ISO 9650-1; and*
- b) the equipment and ratings specified for one Equipment Pack 1 >24 hrs in ISO 9650-1; and*
- c) one EPIRB, 406MHz.*

ISO 9650-1 scope and application

ISO 9650-1 applies to inflatable liferafts that have a carrying capacity between 4 and 12 persons.

Equivalence

An equivalent means of complying with the liferaft requirements stated in Clause 5.3 and tables 2, 3 and 4 and Annex D2 and D3 of NSCV Part C7A when each liferaft is to carry > 12 persons is that the liferaft:

- meets the requirements of the International Life-Saving Appliance Code 2016 (LSA Code) Chapter IV, section 4.2; and
- is equipped in accordance with LSA Code paragraph 4.1.5.1 (SOLAS PACK A) as modified by Marine Order 25 (Equipment – lifesaving) 2014, Schedule 1 Section 10 (Liferaft equipment).

¹This solution is approved by the National Regulator for the purposes of NSCV Part B section 1.6.