



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
New	Part 1	Part 2
Transitional	Part 1	Part 2
Existing vessels operating before 1 July 2013	Part 1	The standards that applied to the vessel on 30 June 2013.
Existing vessels not 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

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

Further Information

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

Part 1 – Safety equipment and EPIRBs

FOR NEW, TRANSITIONAL AND EXISTING CLASS 3B VESSELS

Items required	Vessels affected
Liferafts and rescue boats	
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
Lifebuoys	
Type and quantity of lifebuoys listed below is required on existing vessels when lifebuoys are acquired or replaced, or by 1 January 2022 whichever comes first. 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
Lifejackets	
Type and quantity of lifejackets listed below is required on existing vessels when lifejackets are acquired or replaced, or by 1 January 2022 whichever comes first.	
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
Distress signals – pyrotechnics	
6 Parachute distress rockets	All
4 Red hand-held flares	All
2 Hand-held orange smoke signals	All
Onboard communications and alarm systems	
General emergency alarm system	≥25m
2 Battery operated torches	All
Medical Supplies 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
Distress signals – EPIRBs	
All vessels operating >2nm seaward from land require an EPIRB that is registered with AMSA. (NOTE – this is in addition to any EPIRB carried as part of a liferaft or survival craft.)	
From 1 January 2021: A float-free EPIRB (a water-activated EPIRB in a float-free bracket)	≥12m; or ≥7.5m to <12m without level flotation; or <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.)
From 1 January 2021: 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
Communication equipment – NSCV C7B	
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
Emergency electrical installation and equipment	
Self-contained source of electrical power, either a dedicated battery or diesel generator, to provide emergency power to all key systems for 6hrs. (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. (See NSCV Subsection C5B)	All other vessels
Emergency lighting (See NSCV Subsection C5B)	≥50m or ≥500GT

Items required	Vessels affected
Navigation equipment	
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
Miscellaneous equipment	
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
Fire fighting equipment	
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