



This is a guide to the equipment standards and requirements that apply to class 3E 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 or Exemption 40, 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 3E VESSELS

Items required	Vessels affected
Buoyant appliances Each lifebuoy assumed to support 2 persons. Dinghy must comply with NSCV Subsection C7A.	
Dinghies / buoyant appliances / lifebuoys or combination, for 100% complement	≥15m
Buoyant appliances, lifebuoys or both, for 100% complement	<15m, not required if vessel is fitted with level flotation as per NSCV Subsection C6B
Suitable equipment to sustain and recover persons overboard, e.g. heaving line with rescue quoit, ladder, rescue sling, scramble net	<25m
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.	
2 minimum: 1 with self-activating light and 1 with buoyant line	≥15m (including those already required in buoyancy appliances section above)
1 minimum with self-activating light	<15m (including those already required in buoyancy appliances section above)
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.	
Coastal lifejacket for 100% complement	All
Distress signals – pyrotechnics	
2 Red hand-held flares	All
1 Hand-held orange smoke signal	All
Onboard communications and alarm systems	
Battery operated torch for each crew member	All
Medical Supplies as per NSCV Subsection C7A Note: Generic equivalent solutions may also be applicable to vessels operating in C, D or E waters	
Scale G Medication and Medical equipment	All
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
From 1 January 2021: A manually-activated or water-activated EPIRB	<12m

Part 2 – Other equipment

FOR NEW CLASS 3E VESSELS, AND TRANSITIONAL CLASS 3E VESSELS ONLY

Items required	Vessels affected
Communication equipment – NSCV C7B	
Signalling light	All
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 2hrs. (See NSCV Subsection C5B)	<35m
Emergency lighting (See NSCV Subsection C5B)	≥500GT
Navigation equipment	
Navigation equipment on vessels ≥35m 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	≥12m <35m
GNSS	<35m where plotting equipment (ECDIS, ECS, etc.) is fitted
Radar reflector	<12m
Speed and distance indicator	<35m
Compass (card 75mm minimum diameter)	<10m
Compass (card 100mm minimum diameter)	≥10m <20m
Compass (card 125mm minimum diameter)	≥20m <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 *

Items required	Vessels affected
Whistle	≥12m LOA *
Bell (300mm minimum diameter)	≥20m LOA *
Gong	≥100m 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.

Miscellaneous equipment	
Windlass, anchors and cables (See NSCV Subsection C7D for anchoring requirements)	All
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