



# This is a guide to the equipment standards and requirements that apply to class 3D 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 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

<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 3D VESSELS

Items required	Vessels affected
<b>Buoyant appliances</b> Each lifebuoy assumed to support 2 persons. Dinghy must comply with NSCV Subsection C7A.	
Dinghy and buoyant appliances / lifebuoys, for 100% complement	≥25m
Buoyant appliances / lifebuoys, or combination of both for 100% complement	≥15m <25m
Buoyant appliances / lifebuoys or combination for 100% or dinghy for 100% complement	<15m unless 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
<b>Lifebuoys</b> Each lifebuoy assumed to support 2 persons.	
2 minimum: 1 with self-activating light and 1 with buoyant line	≥15m included in buoyancy requirements
1 minimum with self-activating light	<15m included in buoyancy requirements
<b>Lifejackets</b> New and transitional vessels must comply with the <b>type</b> and <b>quantity</b> of lifejackets listed below. Existing vessels must comply with the <b>type</b> of lifejackets listed below when lifejackets are acquired or replaced. Existing vessels must comply with the <b>quantity</b> of lifejackets listed below.	
Coastal lifejacket for 100% complement	All
<b>Distress signals – pyrotechnics</b>	
3 Parachute distress rockets	All
2 Red hand-held flares	All
1 Hand-held orange smoke signal	All
<b>Onboard communications and alarm systems</b>	
Battery operated torch for each crew member	All
<b>Medical Supplies</b> as per NSCV Subsection C7A Note: Generic equivalent solutions may also be applicable to vessels operating in C, D or E waters	
Scale G First Aid Kit	All
<b>Distress signals – EPIRBs</b> 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.)	
<b>From 1 January 2021:</b> A float-free EPIRB (a water-activated EPIRB in a float-free bracket)	≥12m
<b>From 1 January 2021:</b> A manually-activated or water-activated EPIRB	<12m

## Part 2 – Other equipment

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

Items required	Vessels affected
<b>Communication equipment – NSCV C7B</b>	
Signalling light	All
VHF Radio (DSC optional but preferred)	All
Current edition of the “Marine VHF Radio Operators Handbook”	≥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 2hrs. (See NSCV Subsection C5B)	<35m
Emergency lighting (See NSCV Subsection C5B)	≥500GT
<b>Navigation equipment</b>	
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)	≥5m
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