



**Australian Government**

**Australian Maritime Safety Authority**

AMSA EX41

### **Marine Safety (Unpowered barges) Exemption 2025**

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I, Kaylene Dale, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (the National Marine Safety Regulator under section 9 of the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law*), make this instrument under subsection 143(1) of the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law*.

Dated 25 June 2025

**Kaylene Dale**

Chief Executive Officer

**1 Name of instrument**

This instrument is *Marine Safety (Unpowered barges) Exemption 2025*.

**2 Duration**

This instrument commences 1 July 2025 and ceases to have effect at the end of 30 June 2030.

**3 Definitions**

In this instrument:

**crew** has the same meaning as in NSCV Part B.

**equivalent means of compliance** means an equivalent means of compliance mentioned in Division 4 of Marine Order 503.

**machinery**, for a vessel, means machinery on board the vessel and includes self-propulsion machinery.

*Example* An excavator used for dredging work that is on board the vessel.

**Marine Order 503** means *Marine Order 503 (Certificates of survey — national law) 2018*.

**Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law** — see Schedule 1 to the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012*.

*Note* **National Regulator** is defined in the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law* — see section 6.

**national law** means the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law* set out in Schedule 1 to the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012*.

**novel vessel** has the meaning given by NSCV Part B.

**NSCV** — see section 6 of the national law, meaning of *National Standard for Commercial Vessels*.

**NSCV Part B** means Part B — *General requirements* of the NSCV.

**NSCV Part C** means Part C — *Design and construction* of the NSCV.

**operational area** has the same meaning as in NSCV Part B.

**passenger** has the same meaning as in NSCV Part B.

**Prevention of Collisions Convention** has the same meaning as in the Navigation Act 2012.

**special personnel** has the same meaning as in NSCV Part B.

**rescue boat** has the same meaning as in NSCV Part B.

**unpowered barge** has the same meaning as in Marine Order 503.

*Note 1* For definitions of **marine safety equipment** and **National Regulator** — see section 6 of the national law.

*Note 2* For definition of **novel vessel** — see also the AMSA website at [www.amsa.gov.au](http://www.amsa.gov.au) that provides information about when a vessel is considered a novel vessel by the National Regulator.

**4 Exemption from certain NSCV Part C requirements**

- (1) Each kind of unpowered barge that is mentioned in an item of the following table, other than a novel vessel, is exempt from compliance with sections 7, 8, paragraphs 9(2)(a) and 11(1)(f) of Marine Order 503 to the extent that it requires

the vessel to meet an NSCV Subsection, Chapter or clause mentioned in the item.

Item	Kind of unpowered barge	NSCV Subsections, Chapters or clauses with which unpowered barge need not comply
1	<b><u>Category 1</u></b> Barge with <b>no machinery</b> and no persons on board	C1 Clause 5.9 and Chapter 6 of C4 C5A Clauses 7.3 and 9.7 of C6B C7A, C7B and C7C If the unpowered barge is permanently moored — C7D
2	<b><u>Category 2</u></b> Barge <b>with no machinery</b> and 1 or more persons on board who are crew or special personnel, but no berths in use	Clause 6.12.4 of C1 — to the extent that it requires a person overboard alert system mentioned in Table 30, measure 8 Clauses 6.12.4 and 6.12.7.4 of C1 — to the extent that they require handholds mentioned in Table 30, measure 3 Clause 5.9 and Chapter 6 of C4 C5A Clauses 7.3 and 9.7 of C6B C7A, C7B and C7C If the unpowered barge is permanently moored — C7D
3	<b><u>Category 3</u></b> Barge <b>with machinery</b> and 1 or more persons on board who are crew or special personnel, but no berths in use	Clause 6.12.4 of C1 — to the extent that it requires a person overboard alert system mentioned in Table 30, measure 8 Clauses 6.12.4 and 6.12.7.4 of C1 — to the extent that they require handholds mentioned in Table 30, measure 3 Clause 5.9 and Chapter 6 of C4 Chapters 3, 5 and 6 of C5A Clauses 7.3 and 9.7 of C6B C7A, C7B and C7C If the unpowered barge is permanently moored — C7D
4	<b><u>Category 4</u></b> Barge <b>with or without machinery</b> and 1 or more passengers on board, but no berths in use	Clause 5.9 of C4 Chapters 3, 5 and 6 of C5A Clauses 7.3 and 9.7 of C6B C7A C7B, other than clause 2.13 C7C If the unpowered barge is permanently moored — C7D

*Note* Unpowered barges with overnight accommodation that is in use are not eligible for this exemption.

- (2) The exemption is subject to the conditions mentioned in items 1 and 2 of Schedule 1.

*Note* The effect of this exemption is that an owner of an unpowered barge of a kind mentioned in the table is not required to apply for an equivalent means of compliance or an exemption if they do not want to comply with a NSCV Subsection, Chapter or clause mentioned in the table.

## **Schedule 1    Conditions**

(section 4)

### **Item    Conditions**

- 1        If there are persons on board the unpowered barge:
  - (a) it must carry communications equipment that enables the persons to communicate with other vessels in the operational area of the barge; and
  - (b) it must have a documented risk assessment that:
    - (i) identifies marine safety equipment required while it is operating; and
    - (ii) is kept up-to-date; and
  - (c) if any marine safety equipment is identified in the risk assessment — it must carry the equipment on board while it is operating so that the equipment is readily accessible to the persons on board; and
  - (d) if it is not connected to the shore or a structure and is not carrying a lifeboat, liferaft or rescue boat for the total complement on board — it must be accompanied while operating by a vessel, other than a recreational vessel, that:
    - (i) remains close to the barge at all times; and
    - (ii) is equipped to rescue all of the persons on board the barge.

*Example for paragraph (a)* A marine radio.

*Note for paragraph (d)* The accompanying vessel may be a domestic commercial vessel, a registered Australian vessel or a foreign vessel.

- 2        The unpowered barge must comply with the Prevention of Collisions Convention.

*Note* This Convention gives effect to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) that are attached to the Convention.

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