



# This is a guide to the equipment standards and requirements that apply to class 2B 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 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 2B VESSELS

Items required	Vessels affected
<b>Liferafts and rescue boats</b>	
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
<b>Lifebuoys</b> 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
<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.	
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
<b>Distress signals – pyrotechnics</b>	
6 Parachute distress rockets	All
4 Red hand-held flares	All
2 Hand-held orange smoke signals	All
<b>Onboard communications and alarm systems</b>	
General emergency alarm system	≥25m
2 Battery operated torches	All
<b>Medical Supplies</b> 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
<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; 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.)
<b>From 1 January 2021:</b> A manually-activated or water-activated EPIRB	<12m with level flotation

## Part 2 – Other equipment

### FOR NEW CLASS 2B VESSELS, AND TRANSITIONAL CLASS 2B VESSELS ONLY

Items required	Vessels affected
<b>Communication equipment – NSCV C7B</b>	
Daylight signalling lamp	≥35m
Signalling light	<35m
International Code flags appropriate to vessel activities	<35m
One set of International Code Flags	≥35m
One copy of the International Code of Signals	≥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
<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 6hrs. (See NSCV Subsection C5B)	≥125m or ≥5000GT
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
<b>Navigation equipment</b>	
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	All
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.

<b>Miscellaneous equipment</b>	
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	$\geq 15\text{m}$ fitted with power operated steering gear

Items required	Vessels affected
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
<b>Fire fighting equipment</b> 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