

Cross the bar without a life jacket on & you cross the line.



Everyone in open boats under 4.8 metres, while crossing a coastal bar, now must be wearing a life jacket.

As of 1 April 2006 it will be compulsory for all persons crossing designated coastal bars in an open boat under 4.8 metres in length to be wearing an appropriately fitted life jacket.

Who does it apply to?

The change applies to commercial, fishing and recreational boats. The regulation will only apply to those boats that are already required to carry life jackets as part of their safety equipment. For this reason no additional costs will be imposed on boat owners.



A life jacket's not a life saver unless you're wearing it.

Experience has shown that even if there are life jackets nearby, there is often not enough time to put them on when faced with a life threatening situation.

Emergency or high risk situations can happen very quickly on the water, even if conditions look calm. Once in the water it is extremely difficult and in some instances impossible to put your life jacket on.

So while most people know that life jackets save lives, "It is not a life saver if you're not wearing it".

Why the changes?

In 2005 there were a number of marine incidents resulting in people drowning while boating in Queensland waters. In response Maritime Safety Queensland made changes to the laws so that wearing a life jacket became compulsory in high risk situations.

The chance of swamping or capsizing while crossing a coastal bar is much greater in a small open boat and in the event of an incident there is a better chance of survival if a life jacket is being worn.

The change is expected to improve marine safety and lessen boating fatalities.

\$150 fine applies

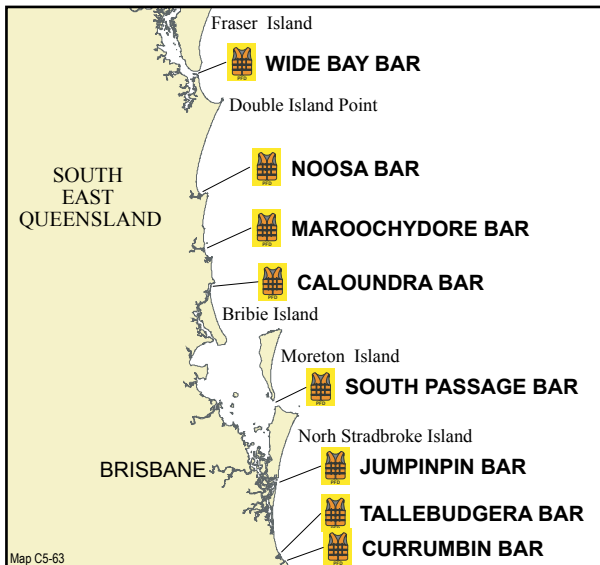
More information at www.msq.qld.gov.au
or phone your local Maritime Safety Queensland office



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Which Queensland bars do the new laws apply to?



Commercial boat owners

Although a commercial boat is required to carry coastal life jackets onboard, it will be acceptable for a person to be wearing a PFD type 1 to comply with this new regulation.

If the commercial operator chooses to provide or wear a PFD type 1 to fulfil these requirements, it will still mean the necessary coastal life jackets will be required onboard.

Definitions

Coastal Bar

A shallow area where sand is deposited across a river mouth, lake, estuary or harbour entrance.

Open Boat

Means a boat which does not include a permanent rigid deckhouse, cabin, or other enclosed space suitable for a person to occupy.

Determining boat measurement

To determine the measurement of your boat refer to the length specified by the boat manufacturer or as recorded on the boat's registration. When in doubt, it's the overall length of the boat excluding appendages such as bow sprits and duckboards.

Fines

An on the spot fine of \$150 will be given to the operator or owner if they fail to comply with the new regulation.

Different types of life jackets



Coastal & SOLAS life jackets

These jackets have more flotation than PFD type 1 and are recommended to be carried by boats operating long distances offshore.



PFD type 1

For use in smooth, partially smooth and open waters. Must comply with Australian Standard 1512.



PFD type 2

For smooth or partially smooth waters only. Must comply with Australian Standard 1499



PFD type 3

For smooth water only where the user is likely to be in the water only for a short time. Must comply with Australian Standard 2260.

Have your say

The interim changes are part of an overall review of the compulsory wearing of life jackets. A public discussion paper for the review will be available on the Maritime Safety Queensland website, www.msq.qld.gov.au in June 2006, or printed copies will be available from your regional Maritime Safety Queensland office.

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