

Summary of General Obligations

The following information summarises the general obligations that exist throughout the NSCV, Part C, Section 7, Subsection 7A. While finite detail is provided in Part C to minimise inconsistency of application, the information contained here is aimed at interpreting Part C to help transfer the information to users. The NSCV, Part C, Section 7, Subsection 7A is therefore the authoritative text on issues relating to the interpretation of Part C and should be referred to in instances where clarification is required.

The overarching responsibilities on owners/operators, applicable to each of the categories of commercial vessels class 2A-E, regardless of size, area or mode of operation are:

- A vessel must carry safety equipment of a type, quality and quantity to control the risks associated with the operation of the vessel, the number of persons on board and the potential risks of the voyage.
- All safety equipment must be regularly maintained and located so that it is accessible and will function reliably at time of need – it must not be stowed above machinery or near a high risk space.
- All safety equipment must be marked to ensure rapid identification of the parent vessel.
- All persons on board must have sufficient information and knowledge to effectively use all available safety equipment at time of need and facilitate search and rescue operations during daylight or at night.
- More than one reliable means must be provided to communicate distress and location to other vessels, aircraft or the shore to facilitate a rapid rescue.
- Electrical power, essential for the safety of the vessel and persons on board, must be maintained during all emergency situations for a period long enough to overcome an emergency or evacuation of the vessel.
- Taking into account the probable time taken to access shore-based medical assistance based on the area of operation, sufficient and appropriate medical assistance and supplies must be provided to treat injuries until professional medical treatment becomes available.

Specifications on the safety equipment identified in NSCV, Part C are available in the following Annexes:

- Non-SOLAS Rescue Boats (Annex B)
- Requirements for Dinghies (Annex C)
- Requirements for Inflatable Coastal Liferafts (Annex D)
- Requirements for Open Reversible Liferafts (Annex E)
- Requirements for Buoyant Appliances (Annex F)
- Requirements for Coastal Liferafts (Annex G)
- Requirements for Medical Supplies (Annex H)

Maritime Safety Queensland has provided a conditional exemption from having to comply with the life saving appliance requirements of TOMSR provided the vessel complies with Part C 7A. Information on the exemption conditions is available from your local MSQ office.